

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVI.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 8th September, at Taiping, F.M.S., the wife of W. J. B. ASHBY, of a daughter.
On the 9th September, at All Saints', Tientsin, the wife of Captain L. C. DUNSTERVILLE, of a son.
On the 9th September, at Tientsin, the wife of PERCY H. KENT, of a son.
On the 12th September, at Wayside Road, Shanghai, the wife of Capt. H. MACKINNON, of a daughter.
On the 16th September, at Tufnell Park, London, the wife of A. E. ROBINSON, Hongkong, of a son.
On the 17th September, at "Bowma," St. Kilda, Melbourne, the wife of C. W. DE BERIGNY, I. M. Customs, Shanghai, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

On the 17th September, at the Shanghai General Hospital, MAURICIO A. XAVIER.
On the 21st September, at the Peak Hospital, FABIEN DEMEE, late officer of the Douanes et Régies de l'Indo-Chine.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The French mail of the 2nd August arrived, per M. M. steamer *Salazie*, on the 22nd September (31 days); and the English mail of the 29th August arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Ballaarat*, on the 26th September (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Russian battleship *Pobieda* and cruiser *Pallada* have been ordered to the Far East.

Mount Rigyo in South Formosa has had a slight eruption since the 20th instant. Fields have been damaged, but no loss of life is reported.

The cholera epidemic in the Philippines is going down, although Iloilo still shows a pretty high record according to the latest news from the Islands.

It is reported at Washington that Captain Rosehill has lodged a claim through the Foreign Office for four million dollars compensation from Japan in connection with Marcus Island.

A Peking telegram says that M. Lessar, Russian Minister in China, has announced that Russia is determined to keep her promise to restore Southern Manchuria, as far as the Liao River and Shanhaikwan railway, to China on the 8th October.

H.M.S. *Albion*, with Rear-Admiral Harry C. Grenfell on board, arrived at Woosung on the 18th inst. Admiral Grenfell will change his flag to the *Eclipse* and pay a visit to the Yangtze ports. The *Albion* was to remain at Woosung till the next spring tide.

The Boxer outbreak at Szechuen has assumed a serious form. The premises at Meichou of the China Inland Mission have been destroyed, but happily no lives lost. The Boxers are now threatening the three cities of Tanliensien, Hungyah-hsien, and Kiatingfu.

The Corean authorities have decided that the mode of dressing the hair now adopted by Corean soldiers is unsuitable, and another mode is to be enforced for the use of all soldiers and policemen before the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Emperor's birth takes place.

Some of the Hongkong papers call attention to the fact that arms and ammunition are being smuggled into South China, says the Shanghai *Union*. The Shanghai authorities might do worse than watch the movements of a certain small sailing vessel which occasionally comes into the lower Yangtze from the South. She is manned entirely by white men.

Several graduates of the Tokyo Higher Normal School have been engaged on the teaching staff of the School in Peking under the control of Viceroy Yuan Shi-kai, and will soon leave Japan for China. Mr. Watanabe, President of the Tokyo Music Academy, recently resigned that position and also left for Peking, having been offered a position in the Viceroy's school.

The Statistical Department of the I. M. Customs has just issued the Returns of Trade and Trade Reports for the year 1901, containing 804 pages of reports and statistics from the Commissioners of the different Treaty Ports in China. The total collection of revenue in Shanghai is H. Tls. 8,152,696, which is the highest on record, being H. Tls. 32,000 in excess of the best previous year, 1899. There is an improvement under every heading, but especially in import and export duties. This is the more satisfactory since little of the increase noted can be due to the effective 5 per cent. rate, so many goods claiming the old tariff privileges being en route to the East up to the last possible moment. We defer consideration of the report until a copy reaches Hongkong.

There are appearances, says the *P. & T. Times* in its Newchwang Notes, of the railway being given up by the Russians. Yet the Russian railway authorities are laying in large stocks of Japanese coal.

Being of opinion that the best coinage work in China is done in Canton, Viceroy Yuan Shi-kai, owing to the lack of efficient workmen in the Northern mints, has written to the Canton authorities for a number of coiners.

According to the *Tokyo Asahi's* correspondent in Seoul, the officials of the Corean Government, who have recently been discharged from their offices on account of their opposition to the proclamation of the law enforcing the cutting of topknots, had been also opposing the scheme for elevating Lady Om to the position of Empress. It is therefore supposed that the followers of Lady Om in the Corean Court have found the present a good pretext for persuading the Emperor to decree the dismissal of these officials whom they have been always trying to make powerless in the Government. The correspondent says that the State affairs relating to the appointment of Government officials having been now mixed up with Court intrigues, many party conflicts in Government as well as Court circles are expected to arise in Corea.

Our correspondent telegraphs under date London, 21st September:—"Notwithstanding British denials, the French Press treat the occupation of Kelantan by Great Britain as a fact. *L'Eclair* says:—'France runs no risk of conflict with England, because she will give France *carte blanche*. Japan is the real element of danger in the Siamese question.' This refers to the visit recently made by Sir Frank Swettenham to Kelantan, in Siamese Malaya, which visit, as stated in our leader column on the 19th inst., was practically accepted by the *Straits Times* as an indication of the approaching occupation by Great Britain of Kelantan, and possibly of Tringganu. A Berlin despatch of the 19th inst. says:—"The negotiations between France and Siam have not yet been successful. The occupation of Kelantan by the British renders the solution of the existing questions more difficult." Thus the tale, circulated for interested motives evidently, about Kelantan has had its effect.

A telegram to the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*, dated Tientsin, 14th September, says:—"We received with to-day's mail the Shanghai papers of the 14th inst., among them the *Shanghai Times*, containing a report, taken from Chinese papers, that Chinese soldiers captured the arms and horses of some German soldiers who were disturbing the graves of Prince Su's ancestors, notwithstanding a complaint was lodged with the German Minister of similar offences before, and that fifteen of the German soldiers were captured by the Chinese and severely beaten, before they were released. Of course there is not a single word of truth in this report; but it is considered here very strange that an English-American newspaper could give publicity to such a report, which, they must say themselves, could not be correct. As far as the German Legation and the German soldiers were concerned, the report is a pure invention. There have taken place some disturbances by the Chinese mafios of a German civilian, but is besides in no way connected either with the German Legation or with any member of the German Brigade.

AN ILLEGAL OPIUM FARM.

(Daily Press, 23rd September.)

The Canton correspondent of this paper, writing on the 18th inst., made reference to the Kong Hing syndicate of native merchants, who for two months past have been conducting an opium-farm at Canton. This farm was established with the sanction of the Tsungli Yamen, to allow the Viceroy to raise additional funds to enable him, it is said, to contribute his portion to the payment of the indemnity. The syndicate is composed of Singapore merchants and a compradore of a well-known foreign opium firm in Hongkong. We referred to the illegal taxation of opium a short time ago in our editorial columns, but we were not then in full possession of the facts. Our Canton correspondent is somewhat in error in his statement concerning the establishment of the syndicate, and what has occurred since its inception, and his deductions therefore cannot be accepted. An investigation of the matter has convinced us that the establishment of this farm at Canton is a flagrant breach of the Opium Convention on the part of the Chinese Government, and the existence of the farm is thereby illegal. This, however, is by no means its worst aspect, for there is ample evidence now to prove that China, apart from this instance, has deliberately and repeatedly allowed that Convention to be broken. It will be remembered that those who favoured the new treaty for the abolition of *lekin* persistently quoted the Opium Convention as the one striking tribute to China's good faith.

The Chefoo Convention and the Opium Convention provide that when foreign opium has paid duty to the Imperial Chinese Customs, and has been packed and sealed in small packages for transmission, so long as these remain intact they are free to circulate all over China without any interference whatever. It is only after these packages have passed into the boilers' hands that any question can be raised as to an additional tax, but seeing that half of the opium never reaches the hands of the public boiler, but is prepared privately, it will readily be seen that the operation of this farm is a deliberate breach of the Conventions.

The members of this syndicate, who have invested much money in their undertaking, have established a farm at Canton, and have been taxing the foreign drug after it had previously paid duty to the Customs. Their ambition has apparently been to rival the Hongkong farm and to create a wealthy monopoly. They have proposed that no merchant in Canton or the interior towns shall open an opium-divan without the possession of a license from them, which shall be affixed to the door of his premises. Further, that the merchant undertakes under bond to pay them an additional tax for this privilege, the syndicate handing him a book with counterfoil in which are to be recorded his imports. The correspondent already alluded to points out that the attempted infliction of this measure has already caused trouble amongst the people, and the native merchants naturally resent it. It is obvious that the sole object of the syndicate is personal profit, tempted as they are by the enormous revenues of the Hongkong and Singapore farms, and that a wish on the score of humanity to lessen the consumption of the drug by additional taxation or a patriotic desire to raise funds for national motives does not enter into their calculations.

When this syndicate boldly commenced operations, the British consular officials at

once strongly protested and advised their minister at Peking. He pointed out to the Chinese Government that the institution of the farm was a breach of the Convention and subsequent Agreements, and reported the matter to the Foreign Office. Our readers will be gratified to learn that for once during many years of its negotiations with the Chinese Government, the Foreign Office has sent an emphatic request that this farm shall be immediately abolished, its existence being contrary to the treaties. In consequence of this display of firmness we have every reason to believe that the existence of this illegal venture will shortly terminate.

In discussing the new treaty with China, which provides for the abolition of *lekin*, the less sanguine of the British merchants have contrived to hope that China's promises with regard to the fulfilment of her obligations will be honestly carried out. The crux of the matter has been the question of guarantee as to that fulfilment, and the promoters of the new treaty have invariably cited the Opium Convention as an instance of China's loyalty to her obligations. It was perhaps the only treaty that could be cited for such a purpose. Here, however, we have an instance, where, within a few miles of Hongkong, the Chinese Government has deliberately broken that much quoted Convention. We can go further, and state that there is ample justification for believing that for years past Chinese merchants have been compelled to pay an additional tax and thereby illegal duty on foreign opium. The Shanghai records will yield many instances of such breaches. In the present case the probability is that the Chinese Government will bring pressure to bear on the guilds and merchants and, in lieu of the tax, make them, *sub rosa*, pay a voluntary subscription. We are compelled to estimate the prospects of the future from the experience of the past, and, while trusting that the British Government will firmly insist on China honestly fulfilling her treaty obligations in respect to the Opium Convention, we cannot but realise that this incident, together with China's long secret extortions from opium-merchants, strengthens and justifies those fears that her obligations under the new treaty will not be loyally carried out.

THE NEW TREATY AND THE MISSIONARY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 26th September.)

As Mr. CECIL HOLLIDAY remarks, Article XIII. of the New Treaty with China, providing for the appointment of a mixed Commission to investigate the missionary question, "reads quaintly in a Commercial Treaty." At the same time we are not disposed to cavil at its insertion in the Treaty just concluded by Sir JAMES MACKAY. There can be no harm in the appointment of a Commission "to if possible devise means to secure permanent peace between converts and non-converts," and though it may seem somewhat out of place in an agreement relating to matters of trade yet there can be no objection to the attempt to provide some way out of an admitted difficulty. It was inserted obviously at the request of the Chinese Commissioner, and it is not to be wondered at that the Chinese Imperial Government should be anxious to avoid a recurrence of the recent outrages and consequent troubles with Foreign Powers. The question, as we have before pointed out, is a large one, and the missionaries ought either to be guaranteed efficient protection or they should

not be allowed to reside in those portions of the interior where such protection cannot be afforded. It is idle to say that the missionaries are content to take their lives in their hands and go to preach to the heathen, notwithstanding all risks. We maintain that the crown of martyrdom ought not to be thus deliberately sought, and that it by no means always follows that the blood of these martyrs is the seed of the Church. Unless and until civilised Powers are able to station Consuls with no very remote ability to appeal to force in a district, the missionaries should, like the merchants, avoid that district, and await the auspicious time when residence there may become possible and reasonably safe from personal violence.

The time for a peaceful residence in the interior of Northern China has clearly even now not arrived. In Chibli brigandage is rampant, and outrages upon and murders of natives are common in several districts, while only the other day two French railway employees were robbed and nearly killed by natives between Peking and Paoting-fu. The Boxer movement is, moreover, by no means dead. A telegram from Chergtu, the capital of Szechuen, on the 15th inst., announced the entry into that city of armed Boxers, and although it seems doubtful whether they were a small isolated body or the advance guard of a considerable force, it is tolerably certain that they will give serious trouble to the provincial authorities and may even prove a source of real danger to the Empire, if they form the nucleus of a new outbreak of this fanatical association. There are still plenty of the embers of the anti-Christian agitation alive in the provinces of North China, and they only need stirring to burst again into a devouring flame that might extend even more widely than the outbreak which rendered the end of the nineteenth century so sadly memorable in China. The prejudiced *litterati* are ready to pour out fresh floods of incendiary placards and leaflets and to start libellous stories in the tea-shops to inflame the minds of the populace and thus provoke acts of outrage and rapine. Whether or not the local officials have the power to restrain the populace from these acts of violence it is perhaps difficult to decide, but in few cases do they trouble to exert it until too late. It is perhaps the knowledge that the sympathy of the officials is with the offenders that renders the Imperial Government desirous of bringing about a Commission of Enquiry into the missionary question, in the hope that some arrangement may be arrived at by which missionaries may be restrained from penetration at will into all parts of the interior.

There would, of course, be a strong and general protest from the missionaries if any limit were to be set to their liberty of travel and residence in the interior of the Central Kingdom. Indeed, there might be very wild outcries from Exeter Hall—and great is the dread of that home of fanaticism in Downing Street. Nevertheless an extra strong British Government may one day, perhaps, venture to clip the wings of the missionary and try to prevent him thrusting himself where he is not wanted. But the time is not yet. The present Government is a fairly strong one while the Opposition is abnormally weak, but it has been in existence long enough to make numerous enemies among its own followers, to have perpetrated many mistakes, and to have been weakened by losses at bye-elections. The process of disintegration which sets in after accession to office has been proceeding long enough to render Ministers chary of making many

experiments or of offending factions. Hence there is little likelihood, during the life of the BALFOUR Cabinet, of any great change in policy either at home or abroad, especially in a direction that might affect votes. For the present, therefore, the missionary in China will enjoy all his ancient privileges and liberties, and may wander into its remotest corners, bent on teaching the doctrines of Christianity to the materialistic followers of Confucius and the degenerate professors of Buddhism. We do not for a moment assert that there would be no loss if the missionaries were precluded from teaching in districts where no efficient protection can be given to them. No doubt they do some good, if their converts are few, and genuine native Christians fewer still. Moreover, the missionaries have done good service in making the country, its productions, and its inhabitants known, and they must be regarded as the first pioneers of Western civilisation. But if these benefits are only to be secured at the price of frequent and heartrending massacres, then we think the cost is too great, and we are inclined to advise waiting until the wants of China necessitate the opening up of these remoter districts of the interior to trade and residence.

THE SIAMESE QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 25th September.)

It will have been seen that certain French organs have assumed the British occupation of Kelantan, one of the Siamese Malay States, so groundlessly predicted in a Singapore paper, to be an accomplished fact and that they regard the supposed aggression with indifference. This is not surprising. Such a foolish and wanton piece of land-grabbing would exactly suit the book of the French Colonial extremists. They would delight to see Britain taking over Siamese Malaya, for they could then with reason urge the seizure by France of the rest of Siam outside the Menam Valley, and their misinterpretation of the first clause of the Anglo-French declaration of 1898 concerning Siam would have been justified. For some reason, which we have been unable to discover, irresponsible politicians at Singapore have been working hard to bring about this solution (?) of the Siamese question. Elsewhere in the British Empire, wherever the matter receives any study, the effacement of Siam, which would follow the absorption of Siamese Malaya and Eastern Siam as a matter of course, is regarded as a calamity against which Great Britain must guard to the best of her ability. But not only do the annexationists propose to reduce to practical non-existence the present buffer-state between British and French possessions in South-Eastern Asia, but they are apparently willing in exchange for the not over-valuable Malay possessions of Siam to hand to France the key to Bangkok and the control thereby of the Menam river. Such a policy is one not only of unrighteous aggression against Siam but also of foolish improvidence with regard to the interests of Great Britain. It is in this way that the matter affects Hongkong. The growth of a foreign Power's strength in this part of the world cannot be regarded with indifference in this Colony, the great British outpost in South China. Singapore of course is, through its greater nearness to Bangkok, still more affected than Hongkong by the possibility of Siam becoming alienated to a strong Colonial nation. Yet apparently the idea of gaining a few more Malay States blinds a section of the public there to the dangers threatened. In Rangoon it is good to see

that such short-sightedness does not prevail. The *Rangoon Gazette* recently had a well reasoned article on the subject of the Siamese crisis, in which it was pointed out that the conditions which obtained at the date of the Convention of 1896 have been entirely altered by the completion last year of the Bangkok-Korat line of railway, the terminus of which is now only eight hours distant from Bangkok and is situated in the heart of one of the eastern provinces the integrity of which has been explicitly left unguaranteed by the 1896 Convention. The alteration made by the construction of this line in the political situation, says our contemporary, is such that, in the opinion of competent observers, if no steps be now taken to counteract its effects, the valley of the Menam will fall into the possession of the French, and thus the South-eastern frontier of our Indian Empire will be exposed to dangers which will be best appreciated by those who have to guard against them. No argument is directed against such contentions by the advocates of British expansion in Malaya, who content themselves with talking about Siamese injustice to this or that petty prince and the anxiety of the people of Kelantan, etc., to come under British rule. Such an agitation is calculated to counteract the good effects of British aid to Siam in the past as well as to encourage the followers of M. DOUMER. We trust that it will find no supporters in the negotiations which the Siamese Vice-Minister of the Interior is said to be conducting with Britain, France, and Germany.

THE C. P. R. AND STEAMSHIP SERVICES.

(Daily Press, 22nd September.)

In our issue of Saturday we published a telegram from our London correspondent in which it was stated that the London evening paper the *Globe* had commented favourably on a resolution of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce in support of an accelerated steamship service *via* Canada and had suggested that steps should be taken to ascertain what the increased cost will be and then whether it is possible to increase the present subsidies. As the resolution of the Chamber of Commerce had not been published in Hongkong, the exact reference of the telegram was rather obscure, the expression "accelerated steamship service *via* Canada" in particular being ambiguous. As a matter of fact the real words of the Chamber's resolution, which was passed by its committee on the 16th instant, were quite clear. The subject dealt with was that of a fast *Atlantic* service between Canada and Great Britain, to be undertaken by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Negotiations, as has already been announced, are going on between the British and Canadian Governments and the C. P. R. Co. for the establishment of a fast passenger and mail service between Canada and Great Britain. This scheme was unanimously endorsed by the Montreal Board of Trade last July. The C. P. R. Co., which has for twelve years successfully operated a fast line of steamers across the Pacific in connection with its railway system, now offers to put into service ships of the most modern type, in no way inferior to the best vessels running to and from New York, with a sea-speed of not less than twenty knots, so as, in conjunction with an accelerated train service, to reduce the journey from London to Vancouver to nine days, instead of the present fourteen; while the Pacific service will probably be improved by shortening the time between Yokohama

and Vancouver to ten days. In view of these facts, the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, which in April, 1900, endorsed the renewal of the mail contract between the British Government and the C. P. R. Co., passed the following resolution:—"That this Chamber strongly endorses the necessity for a fast and reliable *Atlantic* service being inaugurated in connection with the present excellent service between China, Japan, and Canada, and being of opinion, judging by the regularity, despatch, and reliability of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's present Pacific service, that an equally satisfactory *Atlantic* service would be provided on the improved conditions stated above" [which we have just summarised], "hereby recommends that the contract for such a mail and passenger service be accordingly entrusted to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and that a copy of this resolution be mailed to the Postmasters-General at London, England, and Ottawa, Canada."

The recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce will meet with the approval of the whole mercantile and general community in Hongkong, and the prospect held out of so rapid a passage between Britain and the Far East *via* Canada is most alluring. It is to be hoped that the advice of the *Globe* will be followed and that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company will reap the fruit of its past services by securing this new contract, which promises great things for British interests in the Far East at a time when they are threatened by most determined rivals.

UNRULY RICKSHA-COOLIES.

(Daily Press, 24th September.)

We have received a letter from a correspondent with reference to unruly ricksha coolies, for which unfortunately we cannot to-day find space. The writer alludes to the case in which Mr. J. H. KEMP, Acting Police Magistrate, inflicted the full penalty of ten dollars on a ricksha-coolie for refusing hire and congratulates him on the firmness shown. Nevertheless he points out that such fines being paid by the guild to which these coolies belong cannot really have much effect and that a few days' imprisonment without the option of a fine would do more to bring them to their senses. Our correspondent goes on to mention his own experiences (which will be corroborated by almost any resident) of ricksha-coolies pretending to be engaged when an attempt is made to hire them, if they anticipate the opportunity of a more lucrative fare. This is confirmed by Inspector WARNOCK's statement to the Magistrate on Monday, when he said that it was impossible for a civilian to get a ricksha where there was a prospect of the coolie picking up a drunken sailor. As a means of telling whether a coolie is really waiting for his fare when he claims to be, our correspondent suggests that the Government should issue cards with the word "Engaged" upon them to all pullers of public rickshas, who should be warned beforehand that they would be severely dealt with if caught using the card wrongfully. This scheme is, we fear, impracticable, for the coolie who offends now by verbal misrepresentation would continue to rely on the aversion of the general public to attending the Police Court to prosecute. It is some times complained that the police are remiss in their control of ricksha and chair-coolies, but we have not heard of cases, under the present régime, in which a constable has refused to interfere when appealed to by a

member of the public. It is the public, it must be confessed, which by its apathy and its aversion to appearing at the Police Court fosters the present state of affairs. Of course such a decision as that which was recently laid down, that a ricksha-coolie can refuse hire when summoned by a "boy" for his master, discourages those who are willing to bring ricksha-coolies into court; but we are here referring more particularly to cases of direct refusal of a fare to his face by an unengaged coolie. To stop such conduct it is necessary for the fare to charge the offender and to be willing to appear in court. The remaining duty rests on the Magistrates, and we feel sure that they will, by excessive leniency, refuse to aid in redressing a wrong against the general public of Hongkong.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

The cases of communicable disease reported in the Colony last week were:—Cholera, 4 (3 Chinese, 1 Japanese), all fatal; diphtheria, 1 (European, at the Peak); enteric fever, 1 (Indian).

We received on Monday from the Colonial Secretary's Office the following telegram from the Colonial Secretary, Singapore, to the Colonial Secretary, Hongkong, received 22nd September:— "Hongkong released from quarantine."

M. Droeze, Consul-General for the Netherlands in South China, informs us that ships or vessels arriving in Netherlands-India from Hongkong are no longer subject to quarantine, the port of Hongkong being declared to be no longer infected with plague. The prohibition of importation of some articles is also cancelled so that all goods can now be imported into Netherlands-India.

Steamers from Hongkong will no longer be quarantined at Saigon, Messrs. Lamke and Rogge courteously tell us, having being so intermed by Messrs. Hale & Co., of Saigon.

AN EXTRADITION CASE.

Mr. F. Hazeland, on Wednesday, the 24th inst., gave his decision in a case in which Li Lap Ting, describing himself as a sub-contractor, was charged in an extradition warrant with armed robbery in the jurisdiction of China on the 23rd February last.

The accused, with about twenty or thirty others, was alleged to have broken into a pawnshop at Sun Hing, on the West River, and cleared it of everything worth taking away—about Taels 9,000 worth. He was arrested on the 4th ult. in a house at 65, High Street, West Point, on the sworn information of a mandarin from Canton. Mr. J. Hastings appeared for the prosecution and Mr. J. Hays for the defence.

The evidence having been completed, Mr. Hastings addressed the Court. He said that with due deference to his Worship's decision in a former extradition case—a copy of which decision his Worship had kindly given to him—he submitted that the decision in question was not correct. The point was as to the duty of the Magistrate and the amount of proof required in extradition cases. The Chinese Extradition Ordinance stated that "if at the enquiry before the magistrate such evidence is produced as would justify the committal of the criminal for trial at the Supreme Court, if the crime of which he is accused had been committed in the Colony, the Magistrate shall commit him to trial, with a view to his extradition." This laid down clearly, submitted Mr. Hastings, what the duty of the Magistrate was, but his Worship had held that he was entitled to go behind the Ordinance and to look at the words of the Treaty of Tientsin, which were that, with regard to Chinese criminals, "on proof of their guilt they shall be delivered up." "proof of guilt" might mean two things—either *prima facie* proof, namely, such proof as would justify committal to the Supreme Court, or conclusive proof, proof that would satisfy a jury—and Mr. Hastings submitted that the Ordinance had considered these words to mean *prima facie* proof only, and, further,

that the Magistrate was bound by that consideration, and was not entitled to go behind the Ordinance and to decide that the words "proof of guilt" meant "conclusive proof." As the point was an important one, he requested his Worship to review his decision in the former case, and, if he thought fit, to decide that what was required was *prima facie* proof only. Mr. Hastings then proceeded to detail the facts of the case.

In giving his decision, his Worship said he had gone very carefully over the evidence, and he was of opinion that its nature justified him in making an order for the extradition of the defendant. The evidence of all the witnesses for the prosecution as to the identity of the prisoner had been very conclusive and quite satisfied him as to the guilt of the defendant, whilst the evidence of an *alibi* was very unsatisfactory. As to the point raised by Mr. Hastings, it was not necessary to go into that, his Worship still being of opinion that conclusive proof of guilt was required and not *prima facie* proof only.

ENQUIRY INTO COLLAPSED BUILDINGS.

The official enquiry into recent fatal collapses of buildings in the Colony opened on Thursday morning before Mr. P. A. Hazeland, Police Magistrate, and a common jury. The first case taken was that of the collapse of houses at 30-32, Kowloon City Road, on 18th July last, when 10 people were killed, 5 injured, and 7 escaped. Mr. H. L. Denny, Acting Crown Solicitor, conducted the proceedings on behalf of the Government, and the jury was composed as follows—C. H. W. Kew, F. S. Chummett, and S. A. Joseph.

Addressing the jury, Mr. Denny said the enquiry was held under the provisions of the Coroner's Abolition Ordinance, under which the magistrate was sitting in the position of a coroner to enquire into the cause of death of ten people who were alleged to have been killed by the fall of certain houses at Kowloon City Road, Nos. 30 and 32; their death was caused at about a quarter to six on 18th July last. At the time a typhoon signal was up in the harbour, and although it would be shown that the wind was blowing strongly at the time, Mr. Denny would put it to the jury, after they had heard the evidence, that there was not a sufficient amount of wind to account for these houses falling and killing these people, if they had been properly built. The houses were the property of the Hongkong Land Investment Company, and formed the end houses of two blocks of buildings, each consisting of fifteen houses. These buildings were erected under the supervision of Leigh and Orange, a very well known firm of architects in the Colony, and the work was looked after by an overseer whose name was Harry Andersen, a Norwegian sailor, who was paid by the Hongkong Land Investment Company the sum of \$60 a month to look after the work, which was given to a Chinese contractor, or, rather, to a Chinese contractor's firm, consisting of two persons and called the Loong Cheong. There was at the same time included in this contract for these thirty houses other twenty houses which were being built, or to be built, on Inland Lot No. 1,108. These twenty houses were on the other side of the road, and except that they were included in the contract for the other thirty houses, the jury had nothing further to do with them in ascertaining why Nos. 30 and 32 fell. They were also mentioned for the purpose of showing the price paid, the Hongkong Land Investment Company agreeing to pay the Loong Cheong for these fifty houses \$145,000. On 30th March of this year a certificate was granted for the houses on K. I. L. 1,108 in the name of the Director of Public Works, who did not himself see these houses or know anything about them at that time. However, a certificate was issued in the name of the Director of Public Works that these houses had been built in compliance with the Building Ordinance No. 15 of 1889, as amended by other Ordinances. With regard to No. 30, this was the house in which the deceased were at the time they were killed, and it was separated from No. 32 by a lane fifteen feet wide. The latter house had been completed after No. 30, but never

received a certificate from the Director of Public Works, and so was not inhabited. On 18th July there were about 22 people living in No. 30, the ground floor being occupied by carpenters employed in the Hunghom Docks, the first floor by some boilermakers, and the second floor by the wife and family of the head boilermaker. The entrance to the upper floors was, as usual in most Chinese houses, from the street. Mr. Denny, continuing, said he thought he would be able to show the jury that on 18th July these 22 people in that house had just finished their evening meal, that broadly speaking, all were in good health and strength—perfectly well—and that suddenly the house collapsed, killing ten persons, eight of whom, the doctor would tell the jury, suffered from fracture of the skull and the other two from injuries of a similar nature, though slightly different; one had sustained rupture of the spleen and the other laceration of the brain. At the time the accident happened the wind was from the W.N.W. and was blowing across a high hill at the back of the houses, but Mr. Denny was of opinion that after the jury had heard the evidence they would come to the conclusion that the wind did not directly cause the fall of these two houses. Amongst the witnesses were people who had been in the house that collapsed and killed the ten people, and they would tell the jury, so far as they could, what happened—that a portion of No. 32 fell against No. 30, and that then the wall of No. 30 fell outwards. As a matter of fact, the two walls appeared to have fallen almost together, but it was possible that after hearing the evidence the jury would conclude that the wind caught the gable of No. 32 from the back, and blew it over against No. 30, resulting almost immediately in the fall of No. 30. Which house fell first it might be extremely difficult to say, but Mr. Denny did not think that it would make any difference either way as to the culpability for the collapse, if there was any culpability on anybody's part. There were the same owners, the same architects, the same contractors, and the same overseer. The jury would simply have to judge, after hearing all the evidence, as to how the accident happened, and whether No. 32 fell first or No. 30 fell first, would not make any difference in their verdict. The object of the enquiry, went on Mr. Denny, was to find out how these ten healthy people were suddenly hurried into eternity. They were killed while in their house immediately after they had had their evening meal, but in coming to a conclusion as to how these people met their death it would not be sufficient for the jury to say they were killed by the debris of falling brickwork or of falling timbers. It was for the jury to enquire carefully into the whole facts connected with the construction of these houses, and it would be for them to say, after careful enquiry, whether or no anyone was responsible—primarily responsible or otherwise responsible—for the deaths of these ten people. Under the Coroner's Ordinance the magistrate had power to commit any person against whom the jury might find a verdict for trial at the Supreme Court. He did not say, explained Mr. Denny, that the jury would find anyone criminally guilty in the present case, but it would be for them to weigh most carefully the whole of the evidence and to find whether anyone was criminally negligent in regard to the way these houses were built—whether there was negligence in the material that was used in their construction or negligence in allowing people to inhabit them before they were fit for inhabitation. It would be put to the jury that these houses were perfectly new; they were built by a wealthy company, and Mr. Denny did not think that the jury would find to be insufficient the sum paid for them. The secretary of the company would tell the jury that his firm did not accept the lowest tender, and that they paid something like \$2,900 for each house. For a Chinese house, Mr. Denny expected that the jury would consider that price a reasonable one. It would be for the jury to decide who was responsible—whether the architects, or contractors, or the overseer, or, after hearing the evidence, whether anybody else was responsible. There was a legal maxim, *Res ipsa loquitur*, which in the present case would be considered in this way:

"Here are perfectly new houses," said Mr. Dennys, "supposed to be built of the best material. They fall down and kill ten people, besides injuring others. There must be something wrong somewhere; whether there is any criminal responsibility is another matter. But these houses cannot have been built in a proper and satisfactory way. I submit to you, gentlemen, and there will be very little difficulty in finding that the facts are as I represent them, to be And, gentlemen, the unfortunate people killed in this case were people living in the house. But it might have been anybody; it might have been you, gentlemen, and it might have been myself, walking along the street. The time has arrived, gentlemen, when something must be done to prevent newly built houses from falling down in this way, for they are a danger not only to the inhabitants of the houses, but to everybody who happens to be in the street near these places." Continuing, Mr. Dennys said there were two or three points to which the jury must specially, perhaps, direct their attention in the present case. The collapsed walls were end walls, and in relation to such walls Section 16 of the Buildings Ordinance enacted that they were to be solid across their entire thickness, and properly bonded and put together with good lime mortar or cement mortar. The specifications under which the houses in the present case were built provided for good lime mortar, and the jury would have to consider carefully whether good lime mortar within the meaning of the Ordinance was used. Section 12 of the same Ordinance provided that no wall should exceed 35 feet in length, clear of any return or cross walls, without the approval of the Director of Public Works. Now, the jury would find that in the case before them the wall considerably exceeded 35 feet in length, without any return or cross walls. After hearing the evidence, Mr. Dennys thought that the jury would come to the conclusion that the attention of the Director of Public Works was never called to the fact, and that no special approval for that wall being over 35 feet was ever granted. Mr. Dennys said he did not mean to say that if the attention of the Director of Public Works had been called to the matter he would have acted differently from the way adopted by the officer who acted for him; it was quite possible that he would have acted just in the same way as had Mr. Tooker. Possibly it would be contended that the walls could be built to exceed 35 feet in length without the approval of the Director of Public Works. That question was raised some time ago by the architects acting in this manner. They built a house with a wall exceeding 35 feet. The Director of Public Works objected to it, and the matter was referred to Government, and the architects won the day. Since then, Mr. Dennys believed, neither the Director of Public Works nor his subordinates had objected in the case of the length of a wall exceeding the limit allowed by the Ordinance. But because of the ruling in a previous case, it was no justification whatever for extending beyond 35 feet a wall in another house altogether. The English Act of 1894 provided that where walls exceeded the length provided for in the Act they should be of additional thickness, and in the present case the walls, if they had been built in England, would have been thicker than they really were. In the present case the architects sent in their plans to the Director of Public Works, but if the plans did not comply with the Ordinance it was the duty of the Director of Public Works to refuse to pass them. Under Section 78 of the Ordinance it was further provided that upon receipt of notice of the commencement or resumption of any building or work, the Surveyor-General or the officer appointed by him for the purpose should take such steps as appeared to him to be necessary for the due observance of the provisions of the Ordinance, by inspecting and surveying every such building or work during its progress. With reference to criminal liability, if anyone were criminally liable he was guilty under the law of the crime of manslaughter. Mr. Dennys instanced the case of the steamer *Wan Loong*, in which case the captain was tried for manslaughter on the ground that he had not taken the necessary steps to see to the proper ballasting of the vessel, a neglect which was considered to be responsible for the loss of the steamer. There was also the case of the *Yesso* steamer,

where the chief and third engineers were found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to four and three months' imprisonment respectively; they had neglected to see that the ship's boilers were in a proper state of repair. He mentioned these instances, explained Mr. Dennys, as cases occurring in the Colony where parties had been convicted of the crime of manslaughter, but where, in the ordinary every-day sense of the word, there was no criminal intention whatever on their part. No one would suggest for a moment that anyone connected with the building of the houses in question had any intention that they should fall down. But manslaughter did not require any proof of malice aforethought. Manslaughter had been defined by Fitzjones Stephen as unlawful homicide, and in another authority on building collapses it was stated that in the case of the death of any person by reason of the carelessness or incompetence of the architect, he might be held responsible for manslaughter, as, for instance, if he allowed the house to be built out of the perpendicular and it fell down in consequence and killed someone. And not only was the architect responsible but so also was every single person who had any duty to perform in connection with the building of these houses and failed to perform it, or did so carelessly. It would be put to the jury, after all the evidence had been heard, that if they found anyone guilty of culpable neglect of duty, that person should be found guilty of manslaughter and sent to the Supreme Court for trial. Of course, every act of negligence was not criminal negligence; everybody in this world was guilty of negligence in one way or another. But supposing that in the present case the jury found that the work was scamped for the purpose of putting money into the pocket of the contractor or anybody else, then the person who scamped the work, although he had no idea whatever that the houses were going to come down, would be guilty of manslaughter, and it would be the duty of the jury to bring in a verdict against him.

Formal evidence as to the collapsing of the two houses and the identification of the deceased was then taken.

Anastus Shelton Hooper, secretary of the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd., was called to give evidence as to the construction of the houses. At the end of 1900 or the beginning of 1901 his company instructed Messrs. Leigh & Orange to prepare plans and specifications for the erection of thirty houses on Kowloon Inland Lots 1,107 and 1,108. Tenders were obtained for the construction of the houses, but before any tender was definitely accepted the company decided to erect twenty houses on Kowloon Inland Lot 1,118, making fifty houses in all. The tenders were exclusive of making the sites, these having been prepared previously. The tender of the Loong Cheong firm was subsequently accepted for \$145,000 for the whole fifty houses, all of which were practically the same; that worked out at \$2,900 for each house. The accepted tender was not the lowest sent in. Witness had been in the Colony for sixteen years, and in that time he had been Superintendent of Crown Lands and Government Assessor for two years and nine months, an office which necessitated his inspecting every tenement in the Colony for the purpose of valuation. Whilst in the Government service he was appointed secretary of the Land Investment Co. as soon as it should be formed; that was thirteen years ago last May. During all that time witness had kept in touch with the value of property, and knew the current prices of building. The Land Investment Co. probably owned the largest share of property in the Colony, and had been building for the last thirteen years. Witness considered that \$145,000 was a very fair price to pay for these fifty houses; the contract did not include goods that were to be ordered from home, such as steel girders; the \$145,000 was for local material and labour. Witness knew only one of the two partners in the Loong Cheong firm—Tam Ling; he had been employed several times before by witness. The architects employed to supervise and superintend the erection of these fifty houses were Messrs. Leigh & Orange, who engaged a Norwegian named Harry Andersen as overseer, to be daily on the work and to see that the plans and specifications were carried out; he was paid \$60 a month and \$5 a month for

launch hire whilst he was living on the Hongkong side. For this \$60 a month witness could not say how much time the overseer had to give to this particular work; he believed that Andersen was overseeing on another building. Witness did not expect him to be exclusively in the employ of the Land Investment Co. for the \$60 a month, but he could not say that Andersen had under his charge 118 houses at one and the same time, including the fifty already spoken of. Witness did not consider 118 houses too many for one man to supervise as overseer, provided they were in the same neighbourhood. Witness knew nothing of Andersen's capabilities as an overseer; it was very difficult in Hongkong to get good overseers. Witness did not know Andersen was a sailor by profession, but a very large number of sailors acted as overseers. The notice produced was sent by witness, as secretary of the Land Investment Company, to the Public Works Department, stating that work on the houses was about to be commenced; the notice was stamped by the architects, Messrs. Leigh & Orange. Accompanying the notice were the two plans produced—one a plan of the 30 houses on Kowloon Inland Lots 1,107 and 1,108 and the other a plan of the 20 houses to be built upon Lot 1,118. The houses on Lot 1,118 were on the opposite side of the road, and the northern house on Lot 1,113 was almost exactly opposite the most southern house of Lot 1,117. Witness did not know if the plans were passed, but the work was proceeded with, and on 19th March, 1902, the P.W.D. issued a certificate, signed by Mr. Tooker, pro. Director of Public Works, stating that the fifteen new houses on K.I.L. 1,107 had been built in compliance with the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance No. 15 of 1889. No certificate had been received for the houses on K.I.L. 1,108; no application had been made for one. Within the past month or two a certificate had been received for K.I.L. 1,118. The fifteen houses on K.I.L. 1,108 were practically completed about June; witness was not aware that the reason a certificate was not applied for for these houses was that the northern wall of the most northerly house had to be reconstructed. When witness heard of the collapse he went to inspect the place with Mr. Leigh; he saw the ruins, but could not account for the way in which the walls had collapsed; he thought it likely that one wall fell and brought down the other. If the houses had been built strictly in accordance with the specifications, witness did not consider it likely that they would have collapsed. First-class work was specified for both in labour and material, and witness's firm depended on its professional advisers for seeing that work carried out. Witness was not able to say whether first-class material was or was not used; he had not examined it. Witness was not aware whether the south wall of the most southerly house on K.I.L. 1,107 was now being taken down. There was a good demand in certain localities for houses of the class provided for in the contract, and there had been no stinting of cost or any attempt to cut down the contractor as to price; witness regarded the contractor as one of the best in the Colony, and capable of doing first-class work.

The hearing was at this point adjourned.

Charles Brown and Robert Smith, who on 10th August last, at Shanghai, stole a launch belonging to Messrs. Geo. A. Derby and C. W. Quelch, have been convicted of piracy and sentenced to one year's and nine months' imprisonment respectively. Smith was formerly a lance-sergeant of police here, and after his dismissal from the force figured for a brief period as barman in the Hongkong Hotel.

During the twenty-four hours ending midnight on the 11th inst., 17 suspected and 7 genuine cases of cholera were reported in Kobe. The disease is spreading at Tadotsu, Kagawa prefecture. Up to the 11th inst. 21 cases were reported. Of this number 11 ended fatally. In the city of Yamaguchi the disease made its first appearance on the night of the 10th inst. when three cases occurred, two ending fatally. One of the patients was a fish vendor, and was attacked at the fish market. The market was accordingly closed and isolated.

HOUSE-COLLAPSES IN HONGKONG.

A list of collapsed houses in Hongkong from 1st January till 3rd August, 1902, is published in the *Government Gazette*. The total number of collapses was 75, apportioned as follows:—Central District, 14; Eastern District, 4; Western District, 16; Cheungshan, 1; Aberdeen, 4; Shauiwan, 1; The Peak, 1; Tsimshatsui, 1; Pingshan, 1; Yau-mat, 10; Kowloon City, 1; Stanley, 10; Shateen, 5; Hunghom, 1; Saikung, 1; Au-tau, 1; Taipo, 1; Shanteen, 1; Mongkok, 2; Shamshui-po, 1. The collapses which resulted in fatal or other injuries to the person were as follows:—“The Pines,” Peak Road, landslide, coolie quarters; 3 persons killed, 1 injured, 4 rescued; contractors not known. 10, Old Bailey Street, side and cross walls; 2 persons injured, 2 rescued; architect, B. B. Harker; contractor, Leung Fat; building in course of erection; contractor fined \$100 twice—first on 28th April, and again on 19th May, 1902, for bad work. 37, Gough Street, collapse of cook-house; 1 killed; architects and contractors not known. 42, Queen’s Road West, projecting brick cornice; 1 killed; architects and contractors not known. 12, Cross Street, back-wall of kitchen; 1 injured; architects and contractors not known. 45, Praya East, roof, side and front wall to first floor level; 13 killed, 3 injured, 6 rescued; architects, Leigh and Orange; contractor, Mow Wo. 33, Nullah Lane, roof of kitchen collapsed; 1 injured; architects and contractors not known. 2 and 4, Eastern Street, party wall; 1 injured; architects, Palmer and Turner; contractor, Lin Wo; building in course of demolition. 56, First Street, cook-house; 1 killed; architects and contractors not known. 10 and 12, Second Street, partly collapsed; 4 killed, 6 injured, 6 rescued; architects (for new story on No. 80), Denison and Lam; contractors unknown. 30 and 32, Kowloon City Road, both collapsed; 10 killed, 5 injured, 5 rescued; architects, Leigh and Orange; contractor, Loong Cheong.

THE KING EDWARD HOTEL LICENSE.

A meeting of Justices of the Peace was held at the Magistracy on the 23rd inst. to consider an application from Mr. Dhunjeebhoy Dorabjee for a public-house licence for the premises situate at No. 3, Des Vœux Road Central, under the sign of “King Edward Hotel.” Mr. F. A. Hazeland (Police Magistrate) presided, and the other Justices present were—Hon. Dr. Clark, Hon. C. S. Sharp, and Messrs. F. J. Badeley, R. H. A. Craig, J. H. Kemp, C. A. D. Melbourne, S. B. C. Ross, A. Seth, F. Arculli, F. H. Arjane, H. W. Bird, W. A. Cruickshank, W. Danby, A. J. David, W. B. Dixon, C. S. Gubbay, E. A. Hewett, A. S. Hooper, R. K. Leigh, N. Mumford, J. Orange, W. H. Percival, A. J. Raymond, T. H. Reid, M. S. Sassoon, P. W. Sergeant, E. Shellim, A. G. Stokes, Dr. J. H. Swan, J. W. R. Taylor, C. H. Thompson, A. Turner, F. Maitland and H. P. White.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law, appeared for the applicant, instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys; and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law, appeared in opposition on behalf of the Hongkong Hotel, instructed by Mr. Deacon.

Mr. SHARP said that at that stage he must take a preliminary objection, although his Worship might not be able absolutely to enforce it, and that objection was against any shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel, who were most certainly interested in the subject-matter, taking any part whatever in these proceedings. He was quite aware that at that stage the withdrawal or non-withdrawal of the shareholders of the Hongkong Hotel must depend upon themselves. He wished to protest against their being present, and in his opinion it would lie with his Worship to say that they had no right to sit as Justices.

Mr. SLADE stated that he most fully endorsed everything Mr. Sharp had said in relation to this matter. Any shareholder in the Hongkong Hotel or any body who was interested by partnership or otherwise in any other hotel or had anything to do with the liquor business or was the partner of a man who was in the liquor business had no right to sit in these proceedings

at all. The only result of such persons voting would be that the party against whom the decision was given could have that decision upset and the whole thing would have to be gone through again.

The CHAIRMAN said that that was the case. If anyone voted who had any interests, pecuniary or otherwise, there could be no question at all that by application to the Supreme Court the whole proceedings could be set aside.

Mr. SLADE remarked that of course any one whose name appeared on the register but only held shares as a trustee was not incapacitated.

The CHAIRMAN—That is so.

Messrs. Arculli, Cruickshank, Lewis, Maitland and Dixon thereupon withdrew, as being interested parties.

Mr. SHARP, proceeding to address the Court, said that the present applicant had never held a licence. His father, Mr. Dorabjee, sen., had been in the hotel business for something like 40 years, during which time he had been proprietor or part proprietor of most of the leading hotels here—the Hongkong, the Peak and the Victoria. He was well known in the business and bore a most excellent reputation. There were three partners only in connection with this hotel—the applicant, Mr. Madar and Mr. Farmer. Mr. Farmer, who was to be manager, had been Mr. Madar’s partner for a good many years. Before coming here he was a hotel proprietor in Australia, had had a very long experience in the business, and bore a most excellent reputation in the Colony. There was no objection against him, and none had been made either by the police or the sanitary authorities; therefore no possible exception could be taken with regard to the probable conduct of the hotel. As to the hotel itself, the proprietors intended to conduct it as a first class residential hotel. The building was an excellent building; in fact, in view of its “up-to-dateness,” its sanitary equipment and the like, it was the best that had been devoted to this business in Hongkong. It comprised one-half of the new block on the south side of Chater Road, built by Sir Paul Chater. The need for more first-class hotel accommodation in Hongkong was notorious; the City was certainly under-hotelled. They all knew that in the tourist season—the Spring and Autumn—the hotels here were over-full. Frequently for that reason people had actually to leave Hongkong—when a crowded “Empress” came in, for instance—and go away to Macao or Canton to get accommodation. The Hongkong Hotel manager would bear out that statement. He himself had perceived as many as 20 people being turned away from the Hongkong Hotel at such a season. At this very moment that hotel was reducing its capacity by 11 or 13 bed rooms, these being sacrificed for the purpose of establishing reading, drawing and billiard rooms; so that if we had been short of first-class hotel accommodation in the past what would we be now? It was proposed in this new hotel to have a small private bar and he took it that no objection could be taken to a good, well-conducted bar in the position of this one. There were perhaps too many low-class public-houses in the East and West of the town; but that question did not at present concern the Court. This bar would be within the hotel, in a position peculiarly unobjectionable. It was not on the street level and did not open directly upon the street. It was the sort of bar which should be permitted in that district. It practically opened into the dining room. There was no licence at present in that large and rapidly filling area bounded on the west by the Hongkong Hotel, on the east by the Naval Yard, on the south by the sea and on the north by Queen’s Road. Not only would this at present be the only licence in that area, but it would be the only one that the Justices would be asked to grant for a very long time. A first-class bar, he submitted, would be a very great convenience there. It was in the knowledge of the Court that the Hongkong Hotel opposed the application. They were, of course, perfectly right in opposing it; he could have no objection to their doing so; but what the Court had to do was not to look after the interests of the Hongkong Hotel but to look after the interests of the general public. And—this without meaning any offence to the Hongkong Hotel—this action

of theirs was a most flagrant attempt to create a monopoly in this first-class business. The Hongkong Hotel was no doubt extremely well conducted. He would say in passing that in all probability it would not be very seriously injured by the new hotel. He supposed the requirements would be always increasing and thought that the Hongkong Hotel had been unduly disturbing itself in imagining that it would be injured. But even if it involved the ruin of the Hongkong Hotel, that would not affect the question now before the Court. The Hongkong Hotel had practically a monopoly in the first-class hotel business. And how was it using it? Last year, he thought, it paid 16 per cent. Certainly at the present moment notices had been issued that residents’ rates were to be raised from next month by about 12 per cent. The prospect was no doubt extremely bright for the shareholders, but how about the public? The one thing that was wanted in the first-class hotel business here was competition. If for any reason the Court refused the licence that day—even though one was granted thereafter of a different sort—they would inflict essentially a very great loss upon the proprietors. The hotel was almost ready to be opened. If the licence was not granted a serious delay would necessarily ensue, during which time a very large capital would be lying idle, heavy maintenance expenses would be incurred and meanwhile the proprietors would be paying an enormous rent. He submitted that this hotel would be an acquisition to the Colony. There was need for more first-class accommodation and to refuse this licence, to hamper it in any way, or place it at a disadvantage as compared with the other leading hotels in Hongkong, would be to do the proprietors a great injustice.

In opposing the application, Mr. SLADE said his learned friend, in asking for the granting of a full licence for this hotel, had drawn a very vigorous picture of the selfishness of the Hongkong Hotel in the attitude it had taken up with regard to the application. That was not the ground of opposition at all. As Mr. Sharp had said, there was room in the Colony for another first-class hotel, and what the meeting had to consider was the best way of serving the Colony in that matter. Mr. Sharp had drawn attention to the position of the bar in this hotel as one of the reasons why the hotel should be granted a full public-house licence, but was not that a reason also for making the establishment even better than the proprietors wished to make it? Grant the hotel an adjunct licence, and thereby the proprietors would be enabled to carry on the business of the hotel and to supply liquor to every conceivable person. The only thing they would not be able to do was to take in casual custom. With an adjunct licence, any one could go to the hotel as a guest, take a meal there, and have as much drink as he liked to call for, and at the same time he could take a friend with him who also could have what he wanted to drink. The application for a full public-house licence was simply to enable the proprietors to get customers off the streets—to make profit out of the casual passer-by, the person who merely went in for a drink and nothing else. The objection to a bar of that kind, however well it might be conducted, was that there already were enough of them in the immediate neighbourhood—ample for every reasonable requirement. Mr. Sharp had drawn an artificial area in which he said there were no public-houses at all, but extend that area a few yards on either side and one got in two such houses—the New Victoria Hotel and Thomas’s Grill Rooms; if the application were granted the addition of the new hotel would make three. And yet Mr. Sharp had suggested that there was not enough drink accommodation in the neighbourhood. The objection of the Hongkong Hotel to this new hotel having a full public-house licence was not, as Mr. Sharp had said, a flagrant attempt to create a monopoly, but an endeavour to preserve order in public bars. It was difficult enough now, with an hotel so well managed as the Hongkong Hotel, to keep order, and it stood to reason that the more public bars there were in the neighbourhood the more difficult it would be to keep order. That was one reason for opposing the application—one in the interests of the public, and on that ground the granting of a full public-house

licence should be refused. Certainly, continued Mr. Slade, grant the applicant an adjunct licence, by all manner of means, and he could then carry on the business of a first-class hotel and at the same time save his guests from the sights and sounds which apparently in Hongkong were inseparable from public bars. It would be a boon to the Colony to have an hotel where there was no public bar. There was, however, another way in which this hotel might reasonably be granted a full licence, and that was by the owners of the hotel transferring the licence of the New Victoria Hotel to the new premises. They were owned by the same proprietors and run under the same management. By adopting this course there would be obviated an increase in the number of public-houses, and if the applicant was adverse to working on an adjunct licence alone it would be a very good way out of the difficulty. The Commission which was held here in 1898 examined witnesses at great length and went into the drink question in Hongkong very extensively; and in their report they stated that they thought the number of licensed houses in the Colony was fully sufficient for the needs of the community. The number at that date was 23; it was now 24, and the new hotel would make it 25. That was another reason why the meeting should not grant the hotel a public-house licence. A body of capable men had considered the question only a few years ago and come to a deliberate conclusion on the subject, and as Justices Mr. Slade would ask those present to follow the ruling of that day. With an adjunct licence there was no reason at all why this hotel should not go on and prosper. Other hotels here were conducted on such lines and could make profits for their proprietors—the Connaught House, for instance—and for the purposes of an hotel, Mr. Slade suggested, nothing more was needed than an adjunct licence. In conclusion, he submitted that, instead of a full public-house licence being granted to the hotel, an adjunct licence be allowed, unless, as he said before, the proprietors were willing to transfer the licence of the New Victoria Hotel to the new premises.

Mr. SHARP, in reply, said that the Court must either grant the licence or refuse it. There was no question of imposing conditions upon it.

Mr. SLADE It is the commonest practice at home.

Mr. SHARP—It has been frequently decided that no conditions can be imposed upon an ordinary licence.

Mr. SLADE—It is done every day. A licence is often refused to a man unless he will consent to do something. If he assents to that, he is granted the licence.

Mr. SHARP contended that the argument was not in accordance with facts. He went on to say that it was far better that licences should be granted to people who had shown themselves disposed and able to do well with them than to strangers. If the new hotel was unexceptionable in itself, on its own merits, it could not possibly be objected to because the proprietor was already successfully conducting another hotel elsewhere. Mr. Slade had said that an adjunct licence was enough. They were not asking for an adjunct licence, and such a licence could not be granted under their present application.

The CHAIRMAN—I think that is so, Mr. Slade.

Mr. SLADE—Yes, I agree, your Worship.

Mr. SHARP—It would involve a delay during which this hotel would be lying idle.

Mr. SLADE—A delay of not more than 10 days.

Mr. SHARP said that the time that would be lost would not necessarily be as short as that. An adjunct licence was not sufficient for them. A good bar was not an absolute necessity, but it would be a very great convenience. An hotel without a full licence was a most hybrid affair. As to the other hotels to which Mr. Slade had referred, the case of the Connaught House, in the first instance, was peculiar. When the licence was applied for it, the reply made was that there were already two licences within about 30 yards of the premises; besides that, the room for which the licence was asked was either the Robinson music-shop or the adjoining premises, and the situation of the bar would have been as objectionable as it possibly could

be. As to Pelham House and Waverley Hotel, these were boarding-houses rather than hotels. With regard to the argument that there were already too many licences in the City, they were all agreed that there were too many in the East and the West, but there were not too many in this part of the town. It was a very curious thing that the only upholder of the public interest in the matter should be the nearest licensed house, the nearest hotel, which naturally should imagine itself injured to some extent by this licence.

Parties having withdrawn, the Court considered the case in private. When parties were re-called,

The CHAIRMAN intimated that the licence had been granted by a majority.

The Court rose.

We understand that out of 29 Justices present, 21 voted for the granting of the licence and 3 against.

THE "ZAFIRO" MYSTERY.

Regarding the alleged theft of a box containing \$50,000 gold from the strong-room of this steamship prior to or during her last voyage to Manila, the theory is gaining ground in the Colony that the bullion was never shipped at all. This has been the position taken up from the beginning by the China & Manila Steamship Company, which has lawyers and detectives actively engaged in the probing of the mystery; and until all the details are made clear, the matter to the lay mind must appear as confused and inexplicable as ever, and natural public curiosity can expend itself only in the hazarding of conjectures. So far as can be gathered, however, there seems as much ground for the theory that the gold was never shipped on the *Zafiro* as for the contention that it was actually placed on board and signed for. Altogether, the incident is best described as a mystery, and its elucidation will be watched with interest.

On Wednesday afternoon a representative of this paper called on Man Loong, of the At Tee shop in Lee Yuen Lane East, who claims to have shipped the money, and asked him a few pertinent questions. Man Loong was positive that the bullion went on board the *Zafiro*; he took it there himself, he said.

"People in the Colony are saying that the money never was shipped," he was told.

"Oh," throwing out his hands and shrugging his shoulders, "suppose people talk, I no c'n help."

"Who took the money on board?"

"I did. I pay first officer or second officer—I no know—an he make sign chit. He look see seals belong all plopah, then lock box up in safe."

In reply to other questions, Man Loong said he took the box on board at ten o'clock on the morning of the day the ship sailed, which she did, he added, at four o'clock. With the exception of \$500 American silver currency, the money was in notes—United States "greenbacks"—and the box in which it was secured was, roughly, two feet long and one foot deep. The signed receipt he received in exchange he was not now in possession of, having sent it to Shewan, Tomes & Co., who, he explained, wanted it for the making out of the ship's bill-of-lading. The box was sealed in Man Loong's shop, and was never once opened, the first or second officer, as Man Loong has already stated, simply satisfying himself that the seals were intact before locking it up in the safe. Man Loong then left the ship. He stated in the interview that he had engaged a lawyer in Manila to fight his claim for the restitution of the money.

We have recorded the recent disappearance from Singapore of an Italian named Lucchi in the employ of Messrs. Pertile & Co. It was found out later that a cheque of the firm for a sum of \$9,360 had been presented and cashed at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Lucchi was traced to Penang where he got his money changed into a draft on Marseilles. Information had been wired through however and when the Japanese steamer arrived there he was arrested. The news of the capture was sent to Singapore, and Chief Detective Inspector Perret left for Penang and after seeing the Magistrate was to go on by the mail to Marseilles and bring back the wanderer for trial at Singapore.

THE PRESS CENSORSHIP AT MACAO.

We have received the following defence of the Macao Government's attitude toward the Press:—

A new law re the freedom of the Press in Macao has provoked criticism in the Hongkong Press when nevertheless the law is liberal and just, liberal because it guarantees to every one a right freely to express his opinion, just because it punishes those who, forgetting the dignity and honour of others, seek means to offend and insult them with impunity. Entire liberty allied to absolute responsibility is the basis of the Portuguese laws re the freedom of the Press. The law only affects those who have so far forgotten the noble profession of a journalist by converting their papers which should be the direct mouthpiece of public opinion into mere placards which deceive their readers. Fortunately in that colony there are few foreigners if any who understand Portuguese; consequently few can be aware how low, morally and intellectually, the Portuguese Press has fallen.

The colony of Macao has not taken umbrage at the English Press, which is not personal and does not publish facts relating to the private life of any individual. The recently published law in no way affects the English papers, which have been freely circulated even though there was no term strong enough to express their disapproval of the new law. Criticism is free and the Portuguese Government wishes it to be so, but crime is prohibited and the Government takes measures against it and nothing else. The Portuguese papers published in Hongkong do not discuss the important subjects of the colony nor criticise its proceedings; they do not advocate the improvements that the old city so badly requires, because they are not competent to do so, nor do they care; but on the contrary publish calumny inspiring contempt for the colony of which they declare themselves to be the subjects. At times they even indirectly incite rebellion. The injured parties know that they can claim justice in courts of your colony, and justice will be done, but at what trouble and expense? The limited salary of a conscientious Portuguese Government official barely suffices for his necessary wants, and he cannot afford to bring an action in Hongkong. These scribblers are aware of this, and take advantage of it or they would not dare to insult other indiscriminately.

If the Portuguese Press were to follow in the footsteps of the English Press the Macao Government would not molest it, and, on the contrary, should be proud of it; but unfortunately the tendency is in the opposite direction. The Portuguese Press in Hongkong is the shame of its English colleagues. What protects them is that it is not generally known what they do write, or surely the English Press would be the first to censure its erring ways and the indecorous object it presents.

Thus the trouble is established. The new law an important necessity against the abuse, personal attacks, and moral attitude of the Portuguese Press in Hongkong, which was reflecting in the order, morals, and peace of the Holy City of Macao. The English Press, which has a different aim and a superior standard of morality, which discusses but does not offend, contests, but does not attack, consequently has not been and will not be affected by the new law.

The law is liberal and adequate to the 20th century because it merely requires that crimes committed through the Press should not be printed. Portugal wishes, like all other nations in questions relating to the Press, the utmost freedom and with that the entire responsibility. Nothing could be more correct, more just, nor coincide better with the ideas of this century.

Dr. Mugliston, in his Medical Report on the Straits Settlements for 1900, says that the general sanitary condition of the Colony, so far as the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca are concerned, may be considered fairly satisfactory: all have excellent water supplies and conservancy is good. But the public health of the Colony for 1900, taking the death-rate as our guide, was not very good, all the Settlements, notably Singapore, showing higher mortality rates than for 1900.

THE CHENCHOU MURDERS.

The *Mercury* says that the Chenchou case has been settled by Chang Taotai and Yu Taotai on behalf of China, and Mr. Giles, the representative of Great Britain. Chang Taotai will remain at Chenchou to carry on what is left to be done while Mr. Giles and Yu Taotai left Chenchou on the 9th inst., the former returning to Hankow via Chanteh, and the latter to the capital where he will meet Tsai Taotai of the Hunan Foreign Office, and together they will proceed to Hankow to negotiate with Mr. Giles with reference to the amount of indemnity and degrees of punishment to be meted out to the responsible officials. While Mr. Giles was at Chenchou, ten articles were drawn up. They are as follows:—

1. The two murdered missionaries had been appropriately buried by the local authorities.
2. The destroyed chapel had been repaired and restored to its original condition.
3. The wounded converts had been attended to and recovered.
4. The ringleaders Chang P. ikou and Chang Yungtai were captured, tried and beheaded, while six others who took prominent part in the riot were afterwards arrested, tried and beheaded.
5. Sung Chang-fah who beat a gong and gathered the rioters has been arrested and is being tried by the Chenchou Taotai and will be severely punished.
6. Ting Dhe-kwai and others, from whom no admission has so far been obtained, are now being tried by the authorities and will be punished.
7. The principals who took part in the murder of the missionaries had been beheaded and nothing has been left undone. The local loafers who joined in the riot but played a less important part will be arrested as they are found.
8. The lost and destroyed properties of the Mission and converts will be made good and the amount is to be settled hereafter by the Foreign Office and the British Consul.
9. The loss of property to the Imperial Post Office is to be settled by the Chenchou Taotai together with the Yenchou Customs Taotai and the General Post Office and is to be treated as a distinct case from the missionary case.
10. What can be done by the Chenchou authorities has been done and the case is considered to be settled, while the whole case will be settled by the Foreign Office and Mr. Giles at Hankow. The remaining duty of the Chenchou authorities is to justly deal with the captured rioters who up to the present, have not been sentenced.

We are indebted to the *N.-C. Daily News* for the following translation of a placard that was posted up in Chenchou:—Among the whole population both scholars and people, there have been innumerable deaths. At first we attributed this calamity to the pestilence, for we had no knowledge that the foreigners were distributing poison. However, we know now that this is the fact; but the authorities have not taken cognisance of the matter. All who have been found with the poison should be dragged to the hill behind the city and beaten to death. Afterwards let us not hesitate to rise up and exterminate the foreigners, and let this be done on the 20th day of the 7th moon (23rd August). Let the chapel be destroyed and the foreigners who have entered the city entirely annihilated. Let men and women all rise up and take part in this. All who are not willing to do so, their sons are robbers and their daughters vile persons. This placard is issued by the united people.

The *Lui Hsing*, built to the order of the Chinese Government by the Kawasaki Dockyard Co., Kobe, was formally delivered to the representatives of the Chinese authorities on the 12th inst. Captain Myhre and officers and the principal officials of the dockyard were the only participants in the ceremony. Precisely at the above mentioned hour the Dragon Flag was hoisted, amidst hearty cheers and good wishes for the future of the steamer. We (*Kobe Herald*) understand this was the very first time a foreign flag has ever been hoisted on a vessel built in Japan. The steamer was expected to sail for Shanghai on the 16th inst.

MANCHURIA.

Affairs in Manchuria seem to be in as bad a muddle as at any stage of proceedings for its evacuation. A telegram received by Viceroy Liu Kung-yi from Peking shows that the Russians are not pleased with the recently signed Anglo-Chinese treaty. M. Lessar, the Russian Minister, has protested against the terms of the treaty in so decided a manner that the *Wai Wu pu* is in a state of alarm lest these objections may furnish pretext to the Russians to delay the long promised withdrawal of northern troops. It is said to be felt by the Russians that the new treaty will restrict the free hand which they have enjoyed in Manchuria, which was practically under their rule. At once on receipt of the telegram the Viceroy wired back to the *Wai Wu pu* advising remonstrance with the Russians for assuming that attitude, on the ground that in no way did the treaty concern the adjustment of the Manchurian difficulties. The Viceroy expressed astonishment that a powerful and civilised nation should use such a trivial excuse for violating an agreement. He also protested against the treatment to which the Magistrate of Kai Ping Hsien had been subjected by the Russian Commander of the troops in that district. Unpleasantness had arisen between the two from various slight causes of a local nature, until finally the Magistrate was driven out of Newchwang by the order of the Commander. Having official business to which to attend the Magistrate returned to the city. He was again expelled, regardless of his protestations, and warned not to return under any circumstances until recalled by the Commander or until after the Commander had officially left the city. It is reported that a part of the troops have already been sent to Port Arthur. In view of the circumstances above related, however, this move is thought to have been made with a view to satisfying Chinese demands for evacuating Newchwang, while yet holding the troops within easy call. In Peking rumours from unofficial sources say that Mu Yun Mie, manager of the Northern Railway, has been promised by the Russian Government that the railway north of Shanhaikwan will be given into his hands a week from Saturday. On the strength of that promise, it is said that the British manifest willingness to transfer the branch from Peking to Shanhaikwan the same week. Chinese officials are awaiting with some concern the outcome of the next two weeks in respect to both railway and territorial transfers.—*Shanghai Times*.

SIAMESE AFFAIRS.

A correspondent, writing to the *Rangoon Gazette* on the recent Shan rising in Northern Siam, concludes his letter with the remarks:—"Let us hope that the Siamese Government will have learned a wholesome lesson, and that out of this turmoil there will arise a better government, one that will treat the people not as slaves, but as human beings—children, it may be, but thoroughly capable of developing under proper care and training into men and women. Should such prove to be the result, the rebellion will not have been in vain."

The correspondent gives the following account of the Shan grievances, as put forward at a conference on the 3rd July:—(1) Siamese Government refused them timber to build temples; (2) the Siamese refused to grant passports, and subjected the Shans to imprisonment for travelling without passports; (3) the taxes were exorbitant and increasing—for instance, no one could kill a pig or a beef without paying from one-sixth to one-fourth its value as a privilege tax; (4) it was becoming more and more impracticable for the Shans to procure homes and rice-fields, or any property. Other oppressions were mentioned, and the present régime was compared with the old order of things, very much against the present system.

The *Siam Observer's* correspondent at Battambang states that recently some servants belonging to the French Consulate at Battambang marched up and down the main road beating drums and loudly proclaiming the fact that all those who owed money to any others than French subjects would, if they took refuge in

the French Consulate, receive protection and never need repay their creditors:—the Governor of Battambang had then no further power over them. The correspondent continues:—You may draw your own conclusions from the above, but it is a fact that many people owing money and willing to work out the amount have been induced to leave the houses of their creditors by servants belonging to the French Consulate. The question which naturally arises is whether the French Vice-Consul knows of such proceedings. It appears that when creditors go to the Consulate with a full knowledge of the whereabouts of the runaways the Vice-Consul always denies the possibility of the latter being on the premises. But, if he does not know, he surely ought to be informed of what goes on in his own Consulate.

The *France Militaire* states that important reinforcements of French Colonial infantry and cavalry are to be despatched from Lorient to Indo-China at the end of this month, as the outbreak of a conflict between France and Siam is considered to be possible at any time. The first regiment of Colonial artillery at Lorient will furnish 335 non-commissioned officers and men.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 13th inst.:—

The Chief of Police has notified the people that a census is going to be taken.

Next Spring the Stewards propose building brick stables to accommodate upwards of 150 p nics.

Prince Tuan and his eldest son are reported to be living with a Mongol prince.

According to *L'Impartial*, a Japanese has been engaged as the head teacher of the Peking University. He was to arrive at the end of last month.

We hear that an army with 50,000 soldiers (Manchus) will be made up very soon and their headquarters will be at the Sheng Chi Ying, Peking.

Men are reported to have been seen diving near the Iron Bridge for rifles lost in the river during 1900. They were superintended by an official.

The line from Ching-ting-fu to Taiyuan-fu is reported as likely to be commenced in the Spring, the work being done by the Lu-han railway folk.

Executions take place quite frequently in the City now, sometimes at the rate of eight a day. If the Viceroy goes on at this rate there will soon be need of a new census.

The *J. J.* remarks that the Chinese appear to be curiously slack in responding to the request of the Russian authorities to come and receive the money for their land or houses taken over in the Russian Concession.

Our Chefoo contemporary tells us that a Russian (or Polish?) lady who has graduated in Paris as a railway engineer has been engaged by the Trans-Siberian Railway Administration. This appears remarkable.

It is reported that an armed robbery with murder was committed on the Lu-han railway yesterday about 40 miles from Peking. A large amount in dollars was taken and a civilian in the employ of the railway killed.

The Viceroy has memorialised the Throne for permission to open an office for the sale of honorary official titles, which shall not necessitate the holding of office, with the object of raising Tls. 1,500,000, after which it can be closed. As the sale of official titles has never ceased, the memorial at first sight appears a little superfluous; but there are twenty special conditions attached in this instance.

We are glad to see the Volunteer Mounted Infantry has not succumbed under the delay which has characterised its inception, but offers some prospect of being carried to a successful issue. The importance of such a branch to our local force increases in proportion with the probability of the Regulars being greatly decreased in the Spring, and there are many ways in which in days to come the corps may do valuable service to the community.

La Porte, the largest vessel which has yet entered Chingwantao, is now lying at the wharf there, unloading 26,500 piles for the Engineering and Mining Co. She had no difficulty in getting alongside comfortably, drawing between

13 and 15 feet. Work on the harbour is steadily progressing.

An Edict of the 9th 8th moon grants posthumous honours and full restoration of rank to ex-Governor Chang Jui-mei of Shantung who was degraded for the murder of German missionaries, which led to the occupation of Kiaochau. The E.D. commands that he shall be awarded an official funeral with full honours.

We hear that certain parts of the minting machinery which the Viceroy is setting up have to be replaced, and two Americans have been engaged to superintend the work, and they are expected here in December.

Col Baron Rupp (Director, Manchurian Railways) Gen. Bolkoff (officiating Governor-General in Alexieff's absence), and the Russian Commandant of the Moukden Province, all went up to Peking on Tuesday, presumably on railway matters.

Application has been made to the Austrian authorities by Chinese residing in their settlement for permission to open cricket gambling halls. The request has been granted, says the *Shih Pao*. Perhaps the Austrian authorities are not aware of the great amount of money often staked on these cricket fights, a good cricket sometimes representing thousands to its owner. The native papers also comment with some evident vexation that in the Austrian Settlement as in the Italian, autonomy over the natives is being fully exercised.

A most tragic and deplorable accident occurred on Tuesday night, resulting in the instantaneous death of one of the R.W.F. men, Private Roberts (No. 5915). The accident occurred near the stables where Sergt. Trowell, R.W.F., Roberts, and another were examining a revolver. It was in Sergt. Trowell's hand when it accidentally went off, shooting Roberts through the head. Two or three men ran up and as quickly as possible got the body on to a *charpoy* (Indian bed) with the object of getting him to the hospital, but life was extinct almost immediately and nothing could be done. The accident was rendered all the sadder by reason of the warm friendship existing between the deceased and Sergt. Trowell, who was so affected by the accident that he had himself to be taken to the hospital where we believe he is still under treatment for shock. The unfortunate man was buried on Wednesday evening, the funeral being largely attended by his comrades, also the officers of his regiment. Roberts was a young man of 21 who had served in S. Africa before coming here, and received a medal there. Sergt. Trowell distinguished himself on several occasions during the trouble here, and was particularly mentioned on one occasion for his gallant behaviour.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 19th September.

SIR,—I fully endorse the sentiments expressed in "Humane's" letter regarding the cruel treatment to which birds and animals are subjected in the Chinese shops here. I consider it ought to be the duty of a policeman to visit the shops once or twice daily to report the frequent cases of overcrowding and also to see that the animals have food and drink. The latter continually being kept in the cages should be made compulsory. This morning on entering one of the shops I found a "chow" puppy absolutely frantic at the sight of a coolie washing his feet outside his cage, scratching at the bars and whining for the water it saw but was unable to obtain. It required some persuasion, too, on my part to induce the owner to give the poor thing a drink. To a lover of animals it is most distressing to witness the miserable condition of the birds—kept in dirty cages nearly always overcrowded and often without food or drink. Surely something can be done to prevent it, and I shall expect to hear that some measures have been taken.—Yours, etc.,

Y. E. S.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 21st September.

SIR,—I entirely agree with your correspondent "Humane" in his remarks re the cruelty to animals and birds which the Chinese are allowed to practise here, and am heartily glad that the brutal treatment of these has at last attracted attention and brought forth a champion. I am sorry to say I can corroborate "Humane's" statement as to the totally inadequate space in which the unfortunate little puppies are confined, and I never pass the shops without coming home with the heartache caused by the sight of these poor little animals jammed in a cage in which they cannot even turn round, placed in the doorway in the blazing sun, and without even a drop of water to which they can have access. Why, I ask, is such a state of things permitted in a British Crown Colony, and why should a Chinaman, a member of one of the most unfeeling and callous races in existence—as witness the way in which they treat their own offspring, thinking nothing of killing them if they are not of the desired sex—be allowed to do what would arouse a storm of disapproval and procure just punishment if discovered in the most out-of-the-way town or village in England. The same remarks may apply to the state in which the birds are kept—those bright little creatures whose birthright it is to be as free as the air. Many of these wild caught and not cage-bred birds are crammed into a cage where they are even obliged to sit on each other for lack of other space and where it is well-nigh impossible for them to get at food or water even when there is any provided for them. It is within my knowledge that many hundreds of these birds have been bought by humane individuals simply that they may set them free, and my own aviary, which is fairly large and was originally started with the idea of giving a good home to some of these poor little prisoners, often runs risk of being in turn overcrowded in my desire to rescue a few more of these little songsters from their hard fate. Cannot something be done to remedy this cruel state of things? I read in your columns lately that Lady Blake is a great naturalist and lover of animals. Will she not aid in a good cause by using all her influence with H.E. the Governor to induce him to assert his authority and order immediate punishment to these inhuman specimens of mankind who transgress against all feelings so dear to an Englishman's heart? Will not some influential resident use his or her best endeavours to start here a branch of the S.P.C.A.? We need it almost as much as in any place, not even excepting Naples, only so far as numbers and varieties of animals are concerned. I should be only too delighted to give my subscription to this object.—Yours, etc.,

NATURALIST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 22nd September.

SIR,—In my former letter to you on the subject of cruelty to animals and birds, I forgot to draw attention to another glaring instance of shocking brutality, and perpetrated by no other than our own spotless Government. I refer to the motley assortment of bipeds and quadrupeds in the aviaries of the public gardens. There, cheek by jowl, are to be found deer, guinea pigs, squirrels, together with fitches, hawks, and peacocks all huddled up in the most incongruous manner possible. Nor is this all. The food supplied to these poor things consists largely of market refuse, such as rotten fruit and cabbage and putrid meat, doled out with a niggardly hand. To add insult to injury they are tormented by any chance visitor, and in this respect truth compels me to say Europeans offend as well as Chinese. When it is borne in mind that the Gardens are frequented by hundreds of Chinese daily, what hopes are there of their ever showing kindness to dumb creatures with such edifying spectacles as the above presented before their eyes. What is much needed is another aviary and a better supply of wholesome food; the cost cannot surely be very much. In conclusion I hope Lady Blake will use all her influence to bring about a speedy reform

and thus put an end to what is best characterised as a monstrous disgrace to the British Government. Thanking you in anticipation for the insertion of this somewhat lengthy letter and enclosing my card.—Yours, etc.,

HUMANE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I am delighted to see that there is more than one person in Hongkong who has noticed the dreadful cruelty which is practised daily in these various bird shops—there are all sorts of animals cooped up in pens where they cannot turn round even, and I have been told that over the shops there are crowds more of animals kept in the sameway. The smell in these shops is quite unbearable and I should think very unhealthy. In England shops like these would be inspected by some member of the Humane Society and I sincerely hope something will be done soon to lessen the sufferings of these poor dumb creatures who have never harmed their persecutors.—Yours, etc.,

A LOVER OF ANIMALS.

THE SYSTEM OF VOTING BY PROXY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—With reference to the difference between the shareholders and some of the directors of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., as the meeting has been postponed to give absent shareholders an opportunity of expressing their opinions on the question at issue, it would, I think, be interesting if you could find space to reproduce the remarks of that eminent authority Mr. Herbert Spencer on the subject of voting by proxy. In his essay on the Reform of Company Law, he writes:—

One more evil, greater even than those above described, remains. This is the system of voting by proxy. As originally devised, a proxy was a means of enabling one who could not attend a meeting, but had reasons for voting with or against some proposal, to register his vote by the agency of a person with whom he was in agreement, or on whose judgment he could rely. It was never intended to be a surrender of judgment on all and every matter into the hands of some one, usually unknown, who might or might not be an unbiassed judge. Into this, however, the system has grown. On receiving from the secretary a form duly stamped and issued at the cost of the company, and naming the chairman, or if not, some alternative director, or if not, another director, and so on, as his proxy, the ordinary unreflecting shareholder, instead of throwing it into the fire or water-paper basket, thinks himself bound to sign it, filled up in favour of one or other of those named—is under a vague feeling of obligation that he must do something with it in the manner suggested. If asked his reason for thus giving to an unknown person power to decide an unknown matter, he replies that the directors' interests are the same as his, and that they know more about the company's affairs than he does. As I have pointed out in the essay above named, and have there conclusively shown by facts, this supposed unity of interests often does not exist, and I have above further proved this: the interests of directors may be in sundry ways at variance with those of proprietors. Yet the effect of this proxy-system as now developed is to give directors uncontrolled powers. The shareholders who have unquestioning faith in the governing body are so numerous, that their votes overwhelm the votes of those who attend the meetings, and either already know a good deal about the matters to be decided or gain insight into them during the proceedings. In the hands of interested manipulators the ignorance of the many is used to extinguish the knowledge of the few. And then naming the large number of proxies they have received, the directors tacitly boast of the confidence placed in them and the implied justification of their policy. The last and most striking illustration of this which I have observed, was furnished by a meeting of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, reported in the *Times* for January 10, 1901—a company the transactions of which had been, and were then, under grave suspicion. But the infatuated

shareholders did not waver, as was shown by the following statement of the managing director and autocrat:—

"Mr. Whitaker Wright, in seconding the motion, stated that the directors had received proxies for nearly 1,000,000 shares in the company (cheers); proxies lodged in opposition amounted to 26,394 shares; and proxies representing 4,987 shares had come in too late. That showed the view of the shareholders."

The worth of this boasted confidence may be judged by the fact that the company is now in course of liquidation under an order of the Court.

But the proxy-system does more than enable directors to carry out schemes that are at variance with the interests of proprietors; it also makes the board an invulnerable oligarchy. In a case which I have in mind (being a shareholder), the chairman triumphantly specified the great number of proxies in their hands which they had used for the re-election of a director whose place had, in the ordinary routine, been vacated. What corollary is to be drawn? Spite of opposition, the board as a whole may, by the use of proxies sent to its members, insure the re-election of any one of their number who is about to retire. Or otherwise the chairman, in whose favour the great mass of the proxies are made out, is enabled, when any member of the board becomes disagreeably recalcitrant—a "guinea-pig" who unexpectedly proves to have a will of his own—to use his proxies in favour of some new candidate whom he has picked out. Thus the representative government of a company is reduced to a farce. The board becomes first an oligarchy and then an autocracy.

—Yours, &c.,

REFORM.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LD.

The following correspondence has been sent to us with a request for publication:—

Hongkong, 18th September.

Dear Sir,—With respect to your reply to me dated the 8th inst. regarding the omission of some points from the official minutes to which I ventured to call the attention of the directors, I regret that I cannot (and I speak in the name of a number of shareholders) take the same view of the matter as they do.

The question whether the points omitted are important or not does not arise at all. The principle involved is whether the proceedings at a public meeting of shareholders should or should not be embodied *in extenso* in the official minutes. In the present instance what is considered a most important section of the Chairman's speech is entirely missing, which section was heard, as I pointed out in my former communication to you, by the majority of those present at the meeting.

Inasmuch as shareholders abroad must, of necessity, be entirely guided by the official minutes, it will readily be admitted that the least omission therefrom, even though it may appear unimportant to some, may very well influence these shareholders in their decision upon the question at issue. On the other hand, were the proceedings recorded in full in the official minutes, it would leave no door open for a possible misconception, so that when the final decision is arrived at, the question as to whether shareholders abroad have or have not decided on the real merits of the case, because they were not in full possession of all that transpired, cannot arise at all, and thus remove any doubt from the minds of the general body of shareholders that they have not been fairly dealt with. The Directors may consider the excised portions of the report as of no importance, but the shareholders there join issue with them, and consider the omissions as essential to the accuracy of the report. I may further say I doubt the wisdom of the decision arrived at, seeing that it is virtually admitted that the omission has been made. It appears to me that the Board in permitting these omissions to pass are undoubtedly assuming a great responsibility, as the rules and regulations of the Co. call for a full and accurate record of the proceedings.—Yours faithfully,

H. M. S. H. ESMAIL.

The ACTING SECRETARY,
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.

Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Limited,
Hongkong, 23rd September, 1902.

Dear Sir,—I beg to inform you that your letter, dated 18th instant, in further reference to the matter dealt with in yours of 29th ultimo, received consideration at yesterday's Board meeting, and I am instructed to advise you in reply that the Directors have nothing to add to what was conveyed to you in my letter of 4th instant.—Yours faithfully,

GEO. A. CALDWELL,
Acting Secretary.

H. M. S. H. ESMAIL, Esq.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the nineteenth ordinary general meeting, to be held at the offices of the Company, on the 27th inst., at noon:—

The general managers have now to submit to the shareholders their report on the nineteenth year's working of the Company, ended 30th June, 1902.

After paying all running expenses, premia of insurance, remuneration to the consulting committee and auditors' fees, there remains a net profit of \$102,936.06, and with the consent of the shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate this amount as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 6 per cent. on the capital of the Company, which will absorb \$60,000.00 and to write off \$42,936.06 from the book value of the Company's property on the 30th June last.

In view of the low rates of freight ruling on the coast generally, and keen competition, combined with the continued high price of coal, the general managers and consulting committee trust that the result will be considered satisfactory.

The steamers of the Company have been maintained in the usual state of thorough efficiency.

The amount appearing as freights due and accounts receivable on 30th June have since been collected.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Since the last general meeting the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving has resigned his seat, Hon. C. W. Dickson being invited to fill the vacancy on the board. The committee now consists of the Hon. R. Shevan, the Hon. C. S. Sharp, the Hon. C. W. Dickson and Mr. C. H. Thompson, who all retire in terms of the articles of association, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts for the six months ended 31st December, 1901, were audited by Messrs. W. H. Gaskell and W. H. Potts and for the final six months ended 30th June, 1902, by Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. R. Lowe, Mr. W. Gaskell having left for England. Messrs. Potts and Lowe now retire, but are recommended for re-election.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.,
General Managers.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

For the year ended 30th June, 1902.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital account:			
20,000 shares at \$50	1,000,000.00		
Reserve fund	173,899.07		
Underwriting account of the Company	71,815.68		
Sundry accounts payable	48,632.96		
Unpaid dividends	957.00		
Unpaid bonus	18.00		
Profit and loss account	102,936.06		
	\$1,398,378.77		

ASSETS.

	\$	c.
Value of the Co.'s steamers:— Haitan, Haiching, Haiman, Hailoong, Formosa, and Thales, after writing off \$34,203.16, as resolved at last general meeting	1,200,000.00	
Value of buoys and moorings at Swatow, Amoy, Tamsui and Hongkong, steam launch and wharf at Hongkong, after writing off \$6,846.62, as resolved at last general meeting	51,174.22	
Loans on mortgage	1,072,174.22	
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	150,500.00	
Freights due on 30th June, 1902	43,268.56	
Sundry accounts receivable from agents, &c.	53,516.92	
	72,039.70	
Cash in hand	879.37	
	\$1,398,378.77	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the year ended 30th June, 1902.

To dividend paid for year ending 30th June, 1901	10,000.00
To amount written off for depreciation for year ending 30th June, 1901	41,087.78
To exchange account	1,377.54
To auditors' fees	600.00
To remuneration to general managers for office expenses, for 12 months	10,000.00
To remuneration to consulting committee for 12 months	2,000.00
To balance	102,936.06
	\$218,001.38
By balance of profit and loss account, 30th June, 1901	8 c.
By profit on coal at Hongkong	101,877.78
By profit on coal at Amoy	\$1,059.43
	706.36
	1,825.79
By interest on mortgages account	6,559.00
By general interest account	1,388.09
By bonuses received	565.96
By profit on running the company's steamers during the year	106,574.76
	\$218,001.38

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LD.

The following are the accounts of the above Company, the report of which we have already published:—

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1901.

On 30th June, 1902.

Dr.	\$	c.
To working account, balance on 30th June, 1901	365,189.94	
To net premium from 1st July to 31st December, 1901	1,547,279.41	
To interest	159,396.99	
	\$3,071,866.34	
Cr.	\$	c.
By agency commissions	69,407.72	
By head office, branches & agency charges	182,666.59	
By remuneration for half-year ending 31st December, 1901, to directors, committees and auditors	14,724.69	
By losses and claims paid	1,635,114.56	
By exchange	2,724.56	
By bonus on contributions account 1901, declared 18th April, 1902, 20 per cent.	330,934.27	
By balance	816,293.95	
	\$3,071,866.34	

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1902.

30th June, 1902.

Dr.	\$	c.
To net premium from 1st January to 30th June, 1902	2,563,402.78	
To interest	91,485.94	
	\$2,654,888.72	
Cr.	\$	c.
By agency commissions	62,615.58	
By head office, branches & agency charges	213,717.99	
By remuneration for half-year ending 30th June, 1902, to directors, committees and auditors	16,443.08	
By losses and claims paid	688,429.32	
By exchange	1,248.97	
By balance	1,672,433.78	
	\$2,654,888.72	

BALANCE-SHEET.

On the 30th June, 1902.

Dr.	\$	c.
To capital 10,000 shares of \$250 each— \$2,500,000 upon which \$50 per share called and paid up	500,000.00	
To reserve fund	1,500,000.00	
To unclaimed bonus and dividend	28,426.89	
To exchange fluctuation account	935,828.61	
To investment fluctuation account being the increase in market value of securities	116,980.17	
To working account, 1901, balance	816,293.95	
To working account, 1902, balance	1,672,433.78	
To reinsurance fund	671,715.30	
To underwriting suspense account	338,331.22	
To sundry creditors	155,603.40	
	\$6,735,613.32	

Cr.	\$	c.
By cash on current account with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	88,053.20	
By cash on deposit with banks in Hongkong and Singapore	505,000.00	
By cash invested in mortgages, debentures and other securities in Hongkong and Shanghai	2,050,160.61	
By amount invested in London, viz.:— Deposited in banks	£74,000 0 0	
Invested in sterling securities	162,195 0 7	
Invested in rupee paper	8,385 0 0	
Market value at date	£244,580 0 7	2,334,900.35

By amount invested in Melbourne, viz.:		
Deposited in banks	£2,000 0 0	
Invested in sterling securities	18,591 18 0	
Market value at date	£20,591 18 0	247,102.81
By amount at debit of branches and agencies		
	696,096 26	
By bills receivable	62,081.92	
By sundry debtors	152,155 18	
	\$6,735,613 32	

THE ROBINSON PIANO CO.

The following is the report for presentation to shareholders at the half-yearly meeting held at the Company's office, 13, Queen's Road Central, on the 25th inst., at 12 o'clock:—

We have satisfaction in presenting to our shareholders a statement of accounts for the half-year ending the 30th June, 1902, and in reporting a continuation of most successful manufacturing and trading.

Our profit for the half-year has been \$21,369 38 from which we have written off for depreciation of machinery and material in factory, bad and doubtful debts, &c. 3,181.43

leaving to credit of profit and loss account a net sum of \$18,187.95 equivalent of 24 per cent. per annum on the capital of the Company.

This we propose to deal with as below, viz.:

To pay a dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year, absorbing...	\$7,500.00
To write off good-will account (making \$10,500 in all) ...	3,500.00
To add to reserve ...	\$21.11
To carry forward to new account the balance of ...	6,366.84
	\$18,187.95

Our reserve now stands at... \$20,178.89 and with the transfer as above of ... \$21.11

it will stand at ... \$21,000. 0

We have re-taken our old Bangkok connection and are receiving satisfactory results. Our limitation in Penang has also expired and that field is now re-open to us.

To look after our interests in Siam, the Straits, Borneo, Sumatra, &c., we have re-engaged Mr. R. Myram as traveller. He has a sound knowledge of the districts and language, is experienced, and we are confident a substantial increase in our already good trade with outlying districts will result.

The accounts have been certified by Mr. W. Hutton Potts.

W. VAUGHAN ROBINSON,
General Manager.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Cricket Club was held in the Pavilion on the 23rd inst. There was a good attendance of members, and Mr. E. W. Mitchell, chairman of the Committee, presided.

The notices calling the meeting having been read by the Secretary, Mr. A. G. WARD,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, you have had copies of the report and accounts posted to you, and with your permission I will take them as read. I regret the financial position is not so favourable as it was at the last annual meeting, and this is mainly due to heavy expenses incurred at the Interport matches and repairs to the Pavilion and the Racquet Court. You will notice in the accounts that we show for the first time our assets, and these will be presented yearly in future. Before formally proposing the adoption and passing of the report and accounts as presented, the Committee will be pleased to answer any questions that members may wish to put.

Mr. E. G. BARRETT—Mr. Chairman, there is one small item which you might make a little clearer. The item "Erection of Railings" is put down at \$751, and in another column it says that we received \$1,000 odd from the Government towards the cost of these railings. Is the balance still unpaid, or was it paid in the previous years?

Mr. E. H. HINDS—In the previous year's account we paid something like \$2,500 for these railings, and the Government gave \$1,066 towards the cost of them. That was adopted in last year's accounts. This cost here is simply for the erection of the railings.

There were no other questions, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. W. R. LEWIS, the report and accounts as presented were adopted and passed.

The CHAIRMAN—Before proceeding with the election of officers and Committee, there are one or two subjects I should like to speak to the members about and for this meeting to give some opinion on as a guide to the new Committee. First, this Pavilion. It is in a wretched state of repair and has been patched and patched until in the opinion of your Committee it is no longer worth repairing; anyhow, I understand some \$4,500 would be required to put it into anything like decent order. It is too small for the requirements of the Club, and it takes up valuable room in its present position; the proper place for a pavilion in our opinion is the north-west corner of the ground. Mr. Ram, ever ready to do anything for cricket and cricketers has kindly furnished the Committee with a plan for a new building, and I think one of the first duties of the Committee you are about to elect will be to formulate some scheme for financing the building of a new Pavilion.

The second subject I would like the meeting to give an opinion upon is whether the time has not arrived when the Club should have a paid secretary combining the office with that of treasurer. Unless we can get a man with plenty of leisure—a rare personage in this Colony—to take up the post of hon. secretary, the interests of the Club must suffer; it is impossible for a business man to give up the time required to run the Club properly during the cricket season. For years past, members have growled at the way the bar of this Club has been run, and they have undoubtedly every reason for complaint; but I see no chance of there being any improvement in this department or in others that require reorganisation unless we get a paid secretary. If the members present are of opinion that we should have a paid secretary and treasurer, it would be the duty of the incoming Committee to revise the rules of the Club and call an extraordinary general meeting to pass the same. The retiring Committee are of opinion that the Club should run the bar itself, and that from the profits made on it a fair share of the secretary's salary would be earned. I may mention that we could get a gentleman to fill the post, and one in every way fully competent to fill it, for a salary of \$50 for the first year. The third and last subject I have to speak to you upon is one of greater importance than the previous ones, and one on which the future of our great national game in this Colony rests; it is the want of interest taken in cricket in Hongkong during the past three years. The young men arriving in the Colony neglect the game, and you have only to turn to the batting and bowling averages to see how few civilian members figure there; and yet, in all our business houses, there must be a very much larger number of men to be drawn upon than there was, say, six years ago. I am extremely sorry to see such a lack of interest in cricket by the young men of the Colony; and hope that this season they will awake from their lethargy and show that our national game is still to the fore in this outpost of the Empire, as it is in the mother country and in Australia (Applause.)

Mr. LEWIS thought that with regard to the Pavilion they had better pledge themselves to a new site, and suggested that the incoming Committee should adopt the one recommended by Mr. Ram. As to the want of interest in cricket shown nowadays by the young men of the Colony, that might be remedied by the captain of the Club going round the various business houses and encouraging the young men there to come and join.

The SECRETARY pointed out that according to Rule 10 every eleven elected its own captain, so that there was no such official as a captain of the whole Club.

Mr. LEWIS—Allow me to suggest the President, then. (Laughter.)

Mr. P. E. BROWN said he quite agreed with Mr. Lewis as to the desirability of having a

new Pavilion, if the Club could finance the venture. The present building took up a lot of ground that was much better adapted for "leather hunting." (Laughter.)

Mr. LEWIS then proposed, and Mr. BROWN seconded, that the incoming Committee give their attention to a scheme for the erection of a new Pavilion and induce young men to join the Club.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. H. C. NICOLL moved that the incoming Committee be also instructed to formulate a scheme for the alteration of the rules and the appointment of a paid secretary and treasurer combined, and that an extraordinary general meeting be called as early as possible to consider the scheme.

Mr. BROWN seconded, and the motion was carried without opposition.

The next business was the election of office-bearers, and on the motion of Mr. HINDS, seconded by Mr. W. J. SAUNDERS, Mr. Mitchell was unanimously elected President for the ensuing year.

Mr. Hinds was re-elected hon. treasurer, *pro tem.*, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. NICOLL.

The CHAIRMAN next moved that Mr. Ward be re-elected hon. secretary for the coming year.

Mr. LEWIS seconded, and the re-appointment was unanimously agreed to.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of a Committee, and Mr. HINDS suggested that someone from the Racquet Court should be included in the membership.

Mr. H. W. LOOKER proposed that Mr. Lewis should be elected to the Committee, to go round and stir up the young men of the Colony to join the Club. (Laughter.)

Mr. F. B. DEACON—And that Mr. Brown be also elected to go round and lend him a hand. (Renewed laughter.)

Whilst the balloting was going on, Mr. P. W. GOLDRING made a suggestion for the retaining of nets for civilian members. It was very hard sometimes for these civilians to get away from the office, he said, and still harder to find that when they got to the Cricket Ground there was not a net to be had, all of them being taken up by naval or military men. Against neither he desired to say one word of complaint, as a glance at the batting and bowling averages would show their great value to the Club and the interest they took in the game. However, he was of opinion that a civilian in the position he had indicated should be afforded a reasonable opportunity of practising, and he therefore begged to move that two nets be reserved three afternoons during the week, from 4.30, for the use of civilians.

The CHAIRMAN said he was fully in sympathy with Mr. Goldring, and suggested that it be left to the incoming Committee to draw up the necessary rule.

To this Mr. GOLDRING complied, and the suggestion was accordingly noted for the information of the incoming Committee.

The ballot resulted in the election of the following members to the Committee—Mr. E. J. Grist (36), Mr. F. Maitland (35), Dr. J. M. Atkinson (24), Captain H. Cadogan, R.W.F. (20), Major J. Wynne, R.A. (15), and Mr. F. B. Deacon (14).

THE CRICKET SEASON.

We are asked to announce that the Cricket Ground will be open for play on Wednesday, 1st October, and that the first match of the season will take place on Saturday, 4th October.

The *Straits Times* writes:—A number of raised \$25 notes of the Netherlands Trading Co. are believed to be in circulation in Deli, and some have already been passed to and refused by the Chartered Bank there. The \$25 notes have been raised to \$100, and the change has been so skilfully effected that it requires an expert to detect the difference between the bad notes and the genuine ones. In fact the work is so well finished that it is believed it was done in Europe. The public are warned about the danger of accepting such notes. *Apropos* of the foregoing, the *Pinang Gazette* advertises \$500 reward for any information that will lead to the conviction of the guilty parties concerned in the circulation, at Penang, of certain forged notes on the Medan branch of the Netherlands Trading Co.

THE HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the members of the Hongkong Football Club was held on Thursday evening in the Cricket Club Pavilion. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presiding.

The Hon. SECRETARY (Mr. F. Browne) having read the notice calling the meeting, the minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the annual report has been in your hands now for some days, and from it you will see that last winter we had a very successful Rugby season. The same cannot quite be said of the Association section, but the amount of success that was obtained in the season's matches was to a great extent due to the clever captaincy of A. R. Lowe. (Applause.) I may say also that the success of the Rugby matches was due largely to the energy and enthusiasm of the captain of the Fifteen, J. H. T. McMurtrie. (Applause.) The Shield matches were attended by as large a number of spectators as usual and seemed as popular as ever. On one occasion it was calculated that there were as many as 5,000 spectators present. The Club unfortunately were beaten in the Shield competition and only succeeded in reaching the semi-final. New blood is evidently required and the Secretary tells me he will be able to find some. The Club has suffered very much during the past year in the departure from the Colony of its President, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, captain McMurtrie, and also the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Ben Johnston. As you all know, Mr. Lockhart's loss is a loss that can hardly be made good. His position as President was unique in that he was one of the original founders of the Club in 1886 and since that time, I think, he had acted either as a playing member or as an officer-bearer all the years he remained in this Colony. It is necessary for us now to proceed to the election of office-bearers—President, Rugby Captain, Association Captain, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and six members of Committee. Before doing so, the Committee will endeavour to answer any questions which members may wish to ask with reference to the report and accounts.

There were no questions.

The CHAIRMAN then formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. A. R. Lowe seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Lowe afterwards proposed that Dr. Atkinson be elected President for the coming year. He was sure they could not get a better President, as Dr. Atkinson was always keenly interested in sport; it was only a few seasons ago that he had given up playing football, and he was still actively engaged in athletics in other ways, particularly in tennis. Dr. Atkinson was so well known to them all that it was unnecessary that he should say more. (Applause.)

Mr. W. W. Clarke seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—I can only say I will do the best I can to do my duty as President. (Applause.)

Mr. E. R. Hallifax moved that W. W. Clarke be elected Captain of the Rugby Fifteen.

Mr. E. M. Knox seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. A. R. Lowe moved that J. W. C. Bonnar be elected Captain of the Association XI. He would make the best Captain they could get. He was right in the centre of the field, had plenty of experience in the game, and could carry on the Club as well as, if not much better than, anybody else. (Applause.)

Mr. C. T. Kew seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Hon. SECRETARY proposed that H. C. Sandford be appointed Hon. Treasurer. He was unfortunately away at present and it was not quite certain that he would be willing to act. It was rather a thankless task. Mr. Ben Johnston, however, had told him he thought Mr. Sandford might not be unwilling if he were asked. The best thing they could do would be to ask him on his return to the Colony.

Mr. W. W. Clarke seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—I presume the Hon.

Secretary will be re-elected. (Applause.) I do not know how the Club would get on without Mr. Browne, and I think it is not necessary to formally propose and second his re-appointment. (Applause.)

Mr. Browne—I have very much pleasure in carrying on the duties for another year. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN stated that the next business was the election of six members of Committee. Messrs. H. W. Slade, A. C. J. Stevens, R. E. and W. H. Russell were away; the remaining members, Messrs. Lowe, Howard, Kew and Goldring were willing to stand again. Other names of candidates which had been mentioned were those of G. B. Macdonald, R. A. W. G. Worcester, E. R. Hallifax, H. W. Locker, C. H. P. Hay and E. D. C. Wolfe.

The meeting proceeded to ballot for the election of six members. While the voting was in progress.

The CHAIRMAN said there was a question which he wished to refer to the members, and that was the advisability or not of re-erecting the grand stand. They knew it had been blown down and that only a few bamboo sticks remained. He thought the stand practically paid its way. Last year the sum of \$117 was obtained from admissions to the stand to view the matches. He was informed that a new stand would cost \$180.

Mr. Clarke thought they should certainly rebuild the stand. There was a number of ladies who always attended the matches, and if they had no place where they could sit and view the games they possibly would not come at all. Then there were other people who wanted some shade when attending as spectators. The stand would not cost much to erect. It was put up two years ago, and if it yielded \$117 last year, which meant \$234 in two years, and only cost \$180, it would certainly pay, besides being a convenience to members and their friends. (Applause.)

The proposal to re-build the stand was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN further intimated that the Six-a-side competitions would begin next Wednesday. There was a proposal this year to enlarge the goals, as it was so difficult with the small goal-posts to score points. He thought that suggestion might also apply to the Shield matches, judging by the results of last year's games. (Laughter.) There would be Second XI matches the same as last year in order to bring out as far as possible any new blood that there was. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Clarke proposed that the Rugby section should have the use of the field on alternate Saturdays with the Association section, instead of, as formerly, playing on week-days or on an odd Saturday when it suited the convenience of the Association XI.

The CHAIRMAN thought that was a matter that might properly be referred to the new Committee. The meeting could hardly deal with it just then.

The matter was accordingly referred to the Committee for consideration.

The ballot having been concluded.

The Chairman intimated the result as follows:—Howard 17; Hallifax, 15; Goldring, 15; Macdonald, 12. As Lowe, Kew and Wolfe had 10 votes each, there would require to be a re-vote among those three.

Mr. Hallifax settled the matter by stating that he would not be able to attend any Committee meetings owing to his duties in the New Territory and asking leave to withdraw his name. He hoped, he said, to be able to attend the matches.

The other six were accordingly declared elected.

On the motion of the Hon. SECRETARY, a vote of thanks was awarded Dr. Atkinson for presiding, and the proceedings ended.

The *Su Pao* hears from Hupeh that the southern section of the Lu-han Railway is from Sinyang to Hankow, a distance of 132 li, and the train ran for the first time over the line on the 2nd inst. There are three wayside stations between the two places and now trains run regularly once a day. From Hankow the train starts at 6.10 a.m. and reaches Sinyang at 3.27 p.m., the trip taking nine hours and thirty-seven minutes, while the return train steams out of Sinyang at 5.50 a.m. and reaches Hankow at 3.10 p.m.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The following Corps orders by Major C. G. Pritchard, R.G.A., Commandant, were circulated last Saturday:—

No. 2 Garrison Artillery Company, 6in. B. L. Gun Drill. At Upper and Lower Belchers, at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 23rd September, 1902. (all ranks). Serjts. Whitehouse, and Bartolome, R.G.A., to attend.

Promotions:—No. 521, Corporal R. C. Edwards, to be Serjt. in the Right Half No. 2, Garrison Artillery Company, H.K.V.C., to complete establishment.

No. 542, Bombardier H. C. Wilcox, to be corporal, vice Edwards promoted.

No. 628, Gunner C. H. P. Hay, to be bombardier vice Wilcox promoted.

No. 139, Gunner J. Hayes, to be Bombardier dated 18th September, 1902.

Resigned, No. 510, Gunner I. O. Hughes, has been permitted to resign, dated 17th September, 1902.

No. 133, Gunner J. Hooper, has been permitted to resign, dated 17th September, 1902.

No. 1 Garrison Artillery Company, 6in. B. L. Gun Drill. At Upper and Lower Belchers, at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, 25th September, 1902. (all ranks).

No. 1 and 2 Garrison Artillery Company, 9.2in. B. L. Gun Drill.—At Kowloon East, on Friday, 26th September, 1902, under Serjt. Bartolome, R.G.A. For all members of the Corps residing at Kowloon.

Taikoo Detachment 6in. B. L. Gun Drill.—At Lyemun, at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 26th September, 1902; a launch will be provided to convey members from Taikoo to and from Lyemun. Serjt. Wood, R.G.A., will attend. Launches.—It is notified for general information that arrangements have been made for launches to run from Blake Pier at 5 p.m. on the evenings that gun drill is ordered at Belchers, returning from there at 6.30 p.m.

The above launch will leave Blake Pier at 5.5 p.m. at latest; punctuality therefore is requested.

All Units, Kowloon Detachments.—Guard Mounting and Squad Drill.—At Kowloon Docks, for members at Kowloon, at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, 22nd September, 1902, under Serjt. T. Moore, R.W.F.

Squad Drill.—At Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 24th September, 1902, under Serjt. T. Moore, R.W.F., in accordance with the New Infantry Training, 1902, and Guard Mounting.

Fire Discipline.—Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers at Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 24th September, 1902, under Serjt. E. Whitehouse, R.G.A.

KOWLOON BOWLING CLUB.

Much interest centred round the expected contest in the final for the Chairman's Cup, but, owing to the illness of Mr. Macdonald, one of the finalists, the match had to be postponed indefinitely.

Mr. T. W. Robertson and Mr. A. R. Kinross, the losers in the semi-final, played off for the third prize, the match resulting in an easy win for the latter by 12 points. The total scores were:—Mr. Kinross, 21; Mr. Robertson, 9.

At the conclusion of the game, Mrs. Milroy, who was introduced by Mr. W. C. Jack, vice-president of the Club, gracefully presented the prize, a handsome pair of silver-back hair brushes, to the winner, and was in turn made the recipient of a pretty bouquet of flowers at the hands of Miss Lily Logan. During the afternoon, tea and ice-cream were served, and this attention to the physical wants of the spectators contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the day.

Mr. Fyfe, a surveyor who had enough of British North Borneo after a few months' service, thus describes one of the sights there, the *Straits Times* says:—They have a railway there, and it is the funniest railway you ever saw or heard of. It was constructed before cart-roads were made, and the railway does not seem to have any approach road at all; and for sixteen miles it runs through a mangrove swamp into which it almost disappears! That is the Jesselton-Beaufort railway and Jesselton is now the capital.

HONGKONG CHESS CLUB.

The second cable game against Singapore has reluctantly been abandoned by the Hongkong players as a draw, and as Singapore won the first game this gives our Southern neighbours the match. The Singapore representatives played well and are to be congratulated on their victory. The Hongkong players suffered from dwindling numbers, owing to departures from the Colony, business calls, and sickness, so that only three of the original match committee were left at the end. We do not, however, mention this as an excuse for Hongkong's defeat, but merely to record a fact. The full score of the second game is given below:—

RUY LOPEZ.			
White.	Black.	White.	Black.
(Hongkong.)	(Singapore.)	(Hongkong.)	(Singapore.)
1 P-K4	P-K4	27 P-K6	Q-K-BP
2 Kt-KB3	Kt-QB3	28 Q-K5	Kt-B3
3 B-Kt5	Kt-B3	29 P-B3	K-R-Qsq
4 Castles	P-B4	30 B-Kt5	R-Q4
5 Kt-P	Kt-Kt	31 Q-B4	Q-R-Qsq
6 P-Q4	Q-K2	32 R-Q3	Q-Kt5
7 P-B	Q-P	33 K-R-Qsq	P-B4
8 Kt-B3	Castles	34 Kt-K2	Rt-R
9 B-K2	Q-K2	35 Bt-R	P-B5
10 P-KB4	Lt-B3	36 P-B2	Rt-Rch
11 P-K5	Kt-Ksq	37 Bt-R	Q-K8ch
12 Kt-Q5	Q-Qsq	38 Q-Bsq	Q-Q7
13 B-Q3	P-B4	39 Kt-KB3	Q-P
14 B-B4	K-Rsq	40 Kt-R5	Q-Q7
15 Q-R5	Kt-Q5	4 Kt-Kt	Pt-Kt
16 B-Q2	P-B3	42 Q-K2	Q-Q7
17 Kt-K3	P-Q4	43 Bt-Q	P-Kt4
18 B-Q3	Q-K2	44 K-Bt	P-KR4
19 P-B4	Pt-P	45 K-K3	P-R5
20 Kt-QBP	K-B3	46 K-Q2	K-Kt2
21 B-B3	Kt-Kt4	47 K-B2	K-Bsq
22 Kt-K3	Kt-B	48 B-B3	P-Kt5
23 Pt-Kt	Kt-B2	49 B-K5	P-B6
24 Kt-BP	Q-B4ch	50 P-K7ch	Kt-P
25 Kt-Q4	P-Kt5	51 Bt-B	P-R6
26 Q-R	Qsq-Kt-Q4	52 P-Kt4	P-Kt3

Drawn.

(a) This defence is attributed to Alapin. It was tried in the Singapore Club's championship last year, which no doubt accounts for its adoption in the present game. Its combination with 6. Q-K2 soon gives Black a very cramped position.

(b) For Black threatens Kt-P.

(c) This invites White's ensuing attack.

(d) Inconclusive. Q-R5 is best, followed perhaps by P-Kt4 when occasion offers. White loses valuable time by the many moves of his K-B.

(e) P-Q-Kt4 is worth consideration now that the Q's move has been delayed.

(f) If now 16. Kt-P, then 17 Q-R-Bsq., Kt-Q5; 8. B-B3, Kt-K3; 19. R-K-B3, and White's attack is irresistible.

(g) Getting rid, by the ensuing capture, of a piece most valuable to White.

(h) White has temporarily won a pawn, but his attack is no longer effective. In fact but for the resource offered by his 27th and 29th moves he would be unable to hold his own.

(i) White cannot save his remaining pawn on the Queen's side.

(j) Black here offered a draw, which was declined.

(k) B-B3 is also playable.

(l) White in turn offered a draw, which Black after four more moves accepted.

(m) White's Bishop cannot touch the Black pawns and Black cannot advance to the assistance of his Q-side pawns without White breaking through on the K side.

We must not omit to mention that the moves in the two games were transmitted by the Telegraph Company without a single hitch or error, though in numerical code. The Club's best thanks are due to them.

The termination of the cable match concludes an exceptionally busy season of the Hongkong Chess Club. The new season commences next month, when it is hoped that chess-players in the Colony who are not already members will join. Mr. H. E. Pollock's expected return next week will greatly strengthen the Club.

Fifteen sailors of the British ship *Cromartyshire* who refused to work any longer on account of alleged ill-treatment in the way of bad food and overwork have been sentenced by the British Vice-Consul at Manila to forfeit six weeks' pay and to be confined on board until the vessel is ready to put to sea. The period of detention is not to exceed six weeks.

HONGKONG.

The cessation of plague at Pakhoi is notified in the *Gazette*.

Subadar Ikbal Singh has been appointed Honorary A.D.C. to H.E. the Governor.

The revival of the stocks as a punishment for incorrigible criminals in Hongkong is, we notice, being favourably commented upon by the Press over the East generally.

The appointment of Captain F. W. Lyons, late South Staffordshire Regiment, to be Deputy Superintendent of Police and Assistant Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, is notified in the *Gazette*.

Lieut. J. B. Arbuthnot, M.V.O., Scots Guards, has been appointed A.D.C. to H.E. the Governor, with the local rank of Captain. He has also been appointed His Excellency's Private Secretary.

The record of Harbour thefts was added to the other day, we are informed, by the cabin of an engineer on an American steamer in dock being rifled. The loot comprised a quantity of jewelry.

A special general meeting of the members of Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce will be held on Friday, 3rd October, at 11 a.m. in the City Hall, to nominate a member of the Chamber to take the place in the Legislative Council of the Hon. R. Shewan, whose term of office expired on the 24th inst.

A slight outbreak of fire occurred on the 21st inst. shortly after 7 p.m. in an outhouse connected with the premises of Li Kwong Loong, furniture dealer, at the rear of Messrs. Caldbeck and MacGregor's, off Queen's Road. The Fire Brigade turned out and effectually extinguished the flames, which had been pretty well subdued by the time they arrived. The damage done was trifling.

The bluejacket who accidentally shot himself on the rifle range at Kowloon on the 18th, died in the Naval Hospital on the 20th inst., and was interred with naval honours in the Happy Valley Cemetery in the afternoon, a large number of the deceased man's comrades attending the funeral. As we have already reported, the deceased, with others, was practising with the Morris tube, and in unscrewing it from his rifle an unexploded charge went off, the bullet cutting through his belt and lodging in the stomach.

Mr. C. Cameron, a diver in the Naval Yard, died early on the 21st inst. from malarial fever, and was buried in the afternoon in the Happy Valley. The deceased, who had a large circle of friends, was a strong, hearty-looking man, and the very last to be expected to succumb to fever. He was a corporal in "B" Machine Gun Company, Volunteer Corps, and on Saturday the Commandant, Major C. G. Ritchard, R.G.A., caused an Express to be circulated asking members of the Corps to muster as strong as possible for the funeral, and to fall in at Headquarters at four o'clock. Besides the Volunteers, many civilian friends of the deceased attended, and the service was conducted by the Rev. C. H. Hickling, Union Church.

Mr. R. D. Kimmond, personal manager for Mr. Daniel Frawley of the Neill-Frawley Company, arrived in Hongkong on Monday from Manila to prepare the way for the rest of the troupe, who are expected on the *Korea* on the 29th inst. So far as has been arranged the Company will play *The Secret Service* at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, on the 30th inst., and will give another performance, possibly of *Lord and Lady Algy* on the following night. After that they proceed to Manila for a season of twelve weeks. They expect to be back in Hongkong in January for a short season, the duration of which depends on their reception on the 30th inst. There should not, however, be any doubt as to this reception, as the cast appearing in *The Secret Service* is the same that played on behalf of Mr. Frawley at the Grand Opera House, San Francisco, certainly not an indiscriminating audience. The repertory of the Company includes 24 plays in all, and they carry their own scenery. Of the latter no less than 63 tons were carried down to Manila with Mr. Kimmond. The mounting for *The Secret Service* is being taken with the Company, which gave a representation at Honolulu and expected to give another at Yokohama.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., is expected to return to Hongkong next week on the *Gaelic*.

Sergeant-Major M. S. Northcote has been appointed Supernumerary Lieutenant in "A" Machine Gun Company, H.K.V.C.

It is officially announced that the Coronation Contingent is expected to arrive on Tuesday next, and preparations are being made to welcome them back in suitable fashion.

The police report that at seven o'clock on Tuesday morning a lad of 18, named Cheng Sze, was admitted to hospital suffering from a fractured spleen, and died at two o'clock in the afternoon of the same day. Before he expired, he stated that he had been assaulted by a man who engaged him to lead cattle. No arrests had been made up till noon yesterday, but the capture of the alleged murderer was confidently anticipated.

The members of "A" Machine Gun Co. held their monthly carbine competition at the Tai Hang rifle range on Saturday and Sunday last. Sergt. E. G. Barrett scored his first win on the "Jackson" Cup and also contributed the best score towards the No. 2 Cup. Under G. Blood, a new recruit and a promising shot, won a 5pon. The No. 2 Cup, presented by Mr. H. C. Wilcox, was won outright by Sergt. F. G. Barrett, who made the best aggregate in three out of four consecutive shoots, viz., 71, 69, and 96-236.

The Governor's flag at the Peak residence is to be hoisted not on the house itself but on the small eminence adjoining. In this connection, it may be interesting to state what the design of the Governor's flag is, as several enquiries respecting it have been made of late. The groundwork is the Union Jack; in the centre is a wreath of laurels enclosing the Hongkong emblem—a pictorial representation of the Island and the Harbour with a sailing ship and a junk, and on the foreshore a group of merchants, two Chinamen and a European, bargaining over some bales of merchandise.

It is said that the doom of the Sikh regiment at Hongkong has now definitely gone forth, writes a home paper. "It is to be disbanded as rapidly as possible, and will be replaced by a native regiment from India—probably by the 9th Gurkhas. It seems that a native regiment such as the Sikhs remaining in a fixed station 'stagnates,' and the general scheme is held to be a bad one. The regiment will, however, be continued until another battalion has been added to the Indian army. Major Berger, Indian Staff Corps, has succeeded Lieut.-Colonel Retallick in command of the Hongkongs. He is the last of the original officers who raised the corps in 1892, and much satisfaction is expressed at his selection for the command." We hear that the Hongkong Regiment will sail for India, on the 29th prox., by the *Arratoon Apcar* (2,879 tons).

A meeting was held on the 20th inst. in the Board Room of the Sanitary Department to consider the proposed formation of a Civil Service Cricket Club. Hon. Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, presided, and there was a good attendance, representatives being present from all the Government Departments except the Police. After the necessary preliminaries had been arranged, the proposal to form a Club was unanimously approved, and rules were drafted and passed. The following office-bearers were elected:—President, Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Vice-President, Hon. Dr. Clark; Captain, Mr. Lamble, S.B.; Vice-Captain, Mr. J. H. Barrington, P.W.D.; Treasurer, Mr. A. Carter, S.B.; Secretary, Mr. Farrel, P.W.D.; Committee, Messrs. J. Reidie, S.B.; R. H. A. Craig, C.S.O.; I. A. Wleal, P.W.D.; G. G. Bennett, P.O.; M. McIver, Harbourmaster's Office; and J. Coyle, P.W.D. It was remitted to the committee to take the necessary steps to get the Club set agoing. It is understood that the Government will be approached with a view to a pitch being granted at Happy Valley. Another meeting will be held at an early date, after which practice will be set about in earnest.

H.M. sloop *Algerine*, Comdr. Rowland Nugent, arrived yesterday morning from the Straits.

H. M. first class cruiser *Cressy*, which left Weihaiwei on the 17th inst., arrived in the harbour early on Sunday morning.

On the 23rd the British storeship inst. *Humber* arrived from Weihaiwei.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Malay Mail* hears that a wealthy local resident is proposing to present a Maxim gun to the Selangor Volunteer Corps and another one to the Perak Volunteers.

The *Univ. sal Gazette* says that over twenty book-stores for the sale of books on "Western Learning" were suddenly opened in Wuchang. The books came from Shanghai and were to be sold to the candidates for the *Chu-jen* examination. The sale was so brisk, that that the daily receipt of each shop was over two hundred dollars.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha inform us that, according to telegraphic advices just to hand from Japan, the steamer *Riojun Maru* (American Line), which recently grounded on Quelpart Island, has had all necessary repairs executed at Kobé and will leave that port for Seattle, via Yokohama, on the 8th prox., carrying with her the same cargo as was originally shipped in her.

The P. & O. s. s. *Banc* arrived at Singapore from Hongkong on the 12th inst. bringing down about 2,000 tons of fresh water, the greater part of which was taken delivery of by Messrs. Hammer and Co. and the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company. The water was brought down by special request, and as the telegram on this subject only reached Hongkong a few hours before the vessel's departure, it speaks well for the resources of the *Banca* to have been able to bring so large a quantity at short notice. The water was discharged at Singapore at the rate of 100 tons an hour.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 11th September:—Re-reels are offering only in limited quantities. A transaction is reported at \$715 average for Nos. 1 and 2, ordinary classification. Filatures.—There is no material change to advise in these sorts, which have been fairly well dealt in notwithstanding the firmness of holders, from whom concessions on subjoined quotations are practically unobtainable. In the absence of any supply, 911 deniers are nominal. Sales include Miu King Lou 11 13 \$925, Yuen Seng 10 12 and Wing Cheong Sing 11 13 \$920, Kwong Shun Cheong 11 13 \$915, Cheung Sai Wo, Cheong Kee and Yut Cheong Wo 10 12 \$900, King Shing's "Gold Dragon" 13 15 \$885, Kai Sun Cheong 13 15 \$870, Yee Wo Cheong 18 22 \$760, Yu Ye Cheong 16 20 (100 bales) \$700, Yu Ye Lun 26 30 \$750. "Market" Filatures continue in favour with sales of Best 3s, Ordre 11/13, 13 15 at \$775. Soey Wo Cheong and Tung Hing 10 12 have been done at \$330, Yen Hing 11 13 at \$790 and Yee Wo Lun 13 15 at \$775. Short-reels.—Further purchases have been made for America on the basis of \$880 for Kwong Wo Hang, \$870 for King Seng, \$855 for U Han Cheong, \$830 for Yun Cheong Wo, Man Po Cheong 14 16. Waste.—The upward tendency has been further accentuated by a purchase of 200 bales Steam Ex-Sel, opened at \$130. Country prices are now reported to be so inflated that it is difficult to give reliable quotations. Punjum Books Nos. 3 & 4 have been done at \$113 and Punjum Waste at \$106.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 26th September.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 26th September.—The prices are declining, market being weak.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.05 to \$8.10 pcl.
do. " 2, White.....	6.70 to 6.75 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	6.60 to 6.65 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.80 to 5.85 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	7.95 to 8.00 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	6.60 to 6.65 "
do. " 1, Brown ...	5.75 to 5.80 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.60 to 5.65 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.00 to 12.05 "
Shekloong "	9.50 to 9.55 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th September.—Owing to the continued drought, the prices are further advancing.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.35 to 3.40
" Round, Good quality	3.25 to 3.30
" Long	4.35 to 4.40
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.60 to 3.65
" Garden, " No. 1	3.80 to 3.85
" White	4.40 to 4.45
" Fine Cargo	4.65 to 4.70

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 26th September.—Bengal.—Extensive sales were made during the fortnight. Our closing quotations are:—

New Patna.....	at \$895 per chest
Old Patna	925 "
New Benares	\$871 "

Malwa.—A better feeling prevailed and a fair amount of business was done at the following quotations:—

New	at \$940 per picul
2 Years'	990 "
"	1000 "
Older	1010 "

Persian.—Has been active. We quote superior at \$640 650 per picul. Other kinds at \$500 600. Stock on date:—

Patna Benares Malwa Persian	
2,223 757 413 1,615	

COALS.

HONGKONG, 26th September.—Owing to short stock of Japanese, market has firmed and 12,000 tons are reported sold during the last fourteen days.

Cardiff.....	\$17.00 to 18.00, ship, nominal
Australian.....	\$19.00 to \$11.00 nominal
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 to 12.50 ex godown nominal
Miki Lump.....	\$10.00 ex ship, nominal
Moji Lump	\$6.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double }	10.50 ex godown
screened	
Hongay Lump.....	8.50 ex ship } nominal
Hongay Dust	6.00 "
Briquettes	16.00 "

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 26th September.—At a decline of \$1 small business has been done. Stock about 2,000 bales.

Bombay.....	21.00 to 22.50 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon, }	22.00 to 24.50 "
and Dacca,	
Shanghai and Japanese,	26.50 to 27.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo,	26.00 to 27.50 "
Sales: 300 bales.	

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 26th September:—Business until towards the close continued in the same dull and unsatisfactory state as previously advised, no signs of the long expected improvement in demand being apparent. The principal factors at work were the absence of rain in the interior and the weak condition of the Shanghai and Northern markets. Holders were greatly alarmed and dropped their selling prices from \$1 to \$3 per bale without inducing any extensive business, as beyond urgent and immediate requirements dealers did not offer at any price. The last day or two, however, buyers have unexpectedly taken quite another turn and most of the sales noted below were effected during this short interval; approved chops of superior No. 10s. attracted most attention. At the close, buying has somewhat slackened, but we believe bottom has been reached and a change for the better should not be far off.

Local Manufacture:—No new business reported. Japanese Spinnings:—Almost neglected.

Raw Cotton:—The feeling during the interval for Indian descriptions has been very depressed, as with the exception of a few sales of 351 bales Bengal for immediate requirements at from \$22½ to \$24 no concession on the part of holders would induce free buying. The market closes quiet with about 2,500 unsold bales in stock. Small parcels of New Crop China Cotton have arrived and been placed on the market, some 60 bales (small) finding buyers at from \$26 to \$28. The yield is quite up to the average, the quality better than that of last year, and the staple being clean and free of seeds and spots. Quotations are Bengal \$21 to \$24, Dacca \$23 to \$25, and China 26 to \$28.

Exchange on India shows little fluctuation and closes weak to-day at Rs. 128 for T T and Rs. 128½ for Post. On Shanghai 74 and on Yokohama 20½ per cent. premium.

The undernoted business in imported and local Spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended 14th instant, viz:—
Indian:—Total sales 4,771 bales, comprising 1,620 bales No. 10s, 690 bales No. 12s, 1,040 bales No. 20s, prices showing a decline of half a Tael and market closing quiet. Estimated unsold stock about 42,000 bales.

Japanese:—There has been rather more enquiry and sales of about 2,500 bales have been effected on the basis of Tls. 86 to \$90½ for No. 16s, and Tls. 91 to 94, prices showing an improvement of one Tael and market closing steady.

Local:—In good request owing to speculative enquiry—sales reported are about 10,000 bales at improving rates, say No. 10s. at Tls. 75 to 76, No. 12s. at Tls. 74½, No. 14s. at Tls. 77 to 83½, and No. 16s. at Tls. 76 to 85. Market closing strong.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 26th September.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$83.00 to \$124.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	3.10 to 3.77½
9 to 10 lbs.	3.85 to 5.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.60 to 2.90
58 to 60 " ..	3.25 to 3.45
64 to 66 " ..	3.55 to 5.35
Fine	5.40 to 7.85
Book-folds	4.55 to 7.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.75 to 1.40
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.90 to 2.15
7lbs. (32 ") ..	2.20 to 2.50
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	2.25 to 2.40
7lbs. (32 ") ..	3.95 to 3.50
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) ..	3.20 to 3.75
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " ..	4.20 to 6.90
to 14 lbs.) ..	
FANCY COTTONS—	
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5 lbs.) ..	1.60 to 4.50
Brocades—Dyed	— to —
DAMASKS—	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.8 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.23 to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.28
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.25 to 3.50
WOOLLENS—	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.65 to 2.25
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00
per piece	
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.85 to 8.25
Assorted	7.00 to 9.40
Camlets—Assorted	15.50 to 34.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } ..	12.50 to 17.00
Assorted	
Orleans—Plain	10.00 to —
per pair	
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 0.80
Fine quality,	1.40 to 2.00
MTEALS—	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.60 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	4.50 to —
Swedish Bar	4.60 to —
Small Round Rod	5.00 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.,	6.20 to —
Wire, 16/25,	9.10 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	7.80 to —
Australian	7.80 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	39.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	39.00 to —
Tin.....	79.40 to —
box. per	
Tin-Plates	8.50 to —
per cwt. case	
Steel ½ to 1	6.50 to —
SUNDRIES—	per picul
Quicksilver	180.00 to —
per box.	
Window Glass	5.75 to —
per 10-gal. case	
Kerosene Oil.....	2.38 to —

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 26th September.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/8 7/8
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8 7/8
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8 7/8
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8 7/8
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8 7/8
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	1/9

ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.15
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.19
ON GERMANY.—On demand	1.75
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	41½
Credits, 60 days' sight	42½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	128
Bank, on demand	128½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	128
Bank, on demand	128½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	74
Private, 30 days' sight	74½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	20½ p.c. pm.
ON MANILA.—On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	1 2½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.64
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$61.20
BAR SILVER per oz.	23½

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 26th September.—General enquiry has improved somewhat during the week under review, and a moderate volume of business has resulted at fairly steady rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have improved to a slight extent with sales at \$595 and \$597½, closing with probable buyers at the higher rate. London is unchanged at £63. National's are unaltered at quotations.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have further advanced with reported sales at \$455 and \$46, and further buyers at \$475. China Traders have sold and can still be procured at \$58½. North China are offering at 11s. 18½, and Yangtze at \$127½. Cantons are in demand and can be placed at \$177½.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have sold at \$337½ and \$340, and are in strong request at the latter rate. Chinas have been done at \$84½ and \$85, and are now enquired for at \$85½.

SHIPPING.—Hon. ko. g. Canton and Macao are steady with sales at \$36½. Indo-Chinas have changed ownership at \$78½ to \$79½, and close with some sellers at \$79. China-Manilas after suddenly dropping to \$17½ have gradually advanced to \$21½ at which buyers are still prominent, sellers holding for \$22½. Douglases have further declined to \$41½ sellers. Star Ferries have sold and can be placed at \$20 (old) and \$10½ (new).

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled steady with fair sales at \$9 cash and \$105 February, and probable buyers at the cash rate. Luzons are wanted at \$10.

MINING.—Punjoms have sold at \$4½ and are wanted. Raubs are still enquired for at \$5.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been the medium of a fair business at \$205, and close firm. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have sold at \$85 and \$86 and are in further request at the higher rate. New Amoy Docks continue in demand at \$37.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have continued neglected, and are now procurable at \$17½. Kowloon Lands continue on offer at \$30, and West Points at \$47½. Hongkong Hotels after sales at \$129 and \$124 are now procurable at \$127. Humphreys Estates have been done at \$11½ and \$11½, and can still be placed at the higher quotation.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons can be placed at \$16½. There is no business to report in the northern stocks.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cement a little better with sales at \$19½ and \$19½, and further buyers. China-Bornos have improved to \$1 buyers. Electrics are offering at \$13 (old) and \$6½ (new). Ropes are weak with sellers at \$30. United Asbestos ordinaries have been sold at \$8½. Providents are offering at \$9½ after sales at the rate. Fowells have been done at \$9.

MEMOS.—Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd. ordinary general meeting to-morrow, the 27th instant. Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 9th October. Canton Insurance Office, Ltd. ordinary general meeting on the 23rd October—transfer books close from the 9th to 23rd October inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	(\$597½, buyers; £63, London)
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, sellers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, sellers
Found. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$35, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$21, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$15, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$99
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$500, nominal
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$45, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 35, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 45, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150
Hongkong	\$100	\$16½, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47½, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$19½, sales & buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$13, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$6½, sellers
Hk. Steam Water Boat Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$345, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$127, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$240, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$86, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$140, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$205
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$175, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$85, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$85, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340, buyers
North China	£25	Tls. 187½, sellers
Straits	\$20	nominal
Union	\$50	\$465, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$127½, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$171, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$11½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$47½, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$20, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fes. 250	\$550
Jelebu	\$5	\$1½, buyers
Punjom	\$10	\$4½, sales & buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1, sellers
Raubs	18	\$5½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$37, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$45, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$52½, ex div
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$21½, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$41½
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$36½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$79, sellers
Shel. Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£1. 17s. 6d., sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$20, sales & sells
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$10½, sales & buy.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$8½, sales
Do.	\$10	\$155, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$19½, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 26th September.—There has been a better demand for tonnage during the past fortnight. From Saigon to Hongkong, 16½ cents to 16 cents per picul; to one port Philippines, 27 cents for medium sized and 28 cents per picul for small carriers to one port north coast Java, 25 cents last and more boats could be placed at this figure. From Java to Hongkong, 20 cents for dry and 25 cents for wet sugar. Newchwang to Canton, several steamers have been closed at 25 cents; to Amoy, 26 cents is obtainable. Coal freights are firm. From Moji to this, \$1.95 to \$2 per ton; to Singapore, \$2 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Bygdø—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul.

Thea—German steamer, 931 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.

Amoy—German steamer, 732 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 26 cents per picul.

Segoria—German steamer, 3,796 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.95 per ton.

Shakano Maru—Japanese steamer, 2,220 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.90 per ton.

Zwir—Australian steamer, 2,119 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Sizhan—British steamer, 845 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Doris—Norwegian steamer, 765 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Bjorn—Norwegian steamer, 724 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Tritos—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,001 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16½ cents per picul.

Arnold Luyken—German steamer, 1,095 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16½ cents per picul.

Telemachus—British steamer, 1,341 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16½ cents per picul.

Emma Luyken—German steamer, 1,109 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16½ cents per picul.

Gaea—Norwegian steamer, 624 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Independent—German steamer, 1,040 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.

Ely—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,163 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.

Brunhilde—German steamer, 872 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.

Themis—Norwegian steamer, 1,208 tons, Saigon to one or two ports Philippines, 25 cents and 29 cents per picul.

Taicheong—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Cebu, 28 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 25 cents per picul.

Lena—Norwegian steamer, 1,000 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 25 cents per picul.

Perla—British steamer, 1,287 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 25 cents per picul.

An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 25 cents per picul.

An East Asiatic T. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 2 cents option Tjilatjap, 29 cents per picul.

Hansa—German steamer, 1,201 tons, three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul (wet and for dry sugar).

Germania—German steamer, 1,714 tons, three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul (dry sugar).

Gloucester City—British steamer, 1,409 tons, three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul (dry sugar).

Shantung—German steamer, 1,000 tons, monthly, 33 months, at \$6,500 per month.

Tyr—Norwegian steamer, 1,417 tons, monthly, 4 months, private terms.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Awa Maru (str.).

FOR LONDON.—Bengal (str.), Glengarry (str.),

Diomed (str.), Awa Maru (str.), Nestor (str.),

Achilles (str.), Menelaus (str.), Agamemnon (str.),

FOR LIVERPOOL.—Machaon (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—Oceanien (str.), Awa Maru

(str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Prinz R. Luitpold (str.), Freiburg

(str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Sazonia (str.),

Freiburg (str.), Silvia (str.), Serbia (str.), Marburg

(str.).

FOR ODESSA.—Knias Gortschakow (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Pleiades (str.), Hyson

(str.), Shinano Maru (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.),

Athenian (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—Hillglen (str.), Afton (str.),

Indrani (str.), Glenesk (str.).

FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—Indravelli (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Eastern (str.),

Chingtu (str.), Kumano Maru (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—

Catherine Apar (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, AND

BOMBAY.—Hiroshima Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

September—

ARRIVALS.

21. Afridi, British str., from Amoy.
 21. Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 21. Benvenue, British str., from K'chinotzu.
 21. Canton, British str., from Wuhu.
 21. Choyang, British str., from Cardiff.
 21. Cressy, British storeship, from Weihaiwei.
 21. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 21. Laos, French str., from Shanghai.
 21. Nanchang, Brit. str., from Chingwangtau.
 21. P. C. C. Kiao, German str., from Bangkok.
 21. Pioneer, German str., from Saigon.
 21. Salazie, French str., from Marseilles.
 21. Taicheong, German str., from Saigon.
 22. Achilles, British str., from Liverpool.
 22. Airlie, British str., from Australia.
 22. C. Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
 22. Erithjof, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
 22. Hongsang, British str., from Canton.
 22. Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 22. Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 22. Kansu, British str., from Chinkiang.
 23. Bamberg, German str., from Shanghai.
 23. Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 23. Chowtai, German str., from Swatow.
 23. Panyang, British str., from Canton.
 23. Humber, British storeship, from Weihaiwei.
 23. Idzumi Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
 23. Lucia, Austrian str., from Kobe.
 23. Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 23. Sullberg, German str., from Canton.
 23. Taisang, British str., from Canton.
 23. Takang, British str., from Wuhu.
 23. Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 23. Tirol, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
 23. Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 23. Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
 24. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 24. Den of Ogil, British str., from Rangoon.
 24. Feusing, British str., from Canton.
 24. Hitachi Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 24. Karin, Swedish str., from Kutchinotzu.
 24. Keelung Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 24. La Porte, British str., from Moji.
 24. Onsang, British str., from Moji.
 24. Picciola, German str., from Amoy.
 24. Tyr, Norwegian str., from Shanghai.
 24. Teurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 25. Amigo, German str., from Iloilo.
 25. Chingtu, British str., from Kobe.
 25. Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 25. Hipsang, British str., from Canton.
 25. Kini Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
 25. Kowloon, German str., from Canton.
 25. Taichow, German str., from Bangkok.
 25. Vicoria, Swedish str., from Singapore.
 26. Algerine, British cruiser, from Singapore.
 26. Ballarat, British str., from Bombay.
 26. Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.
 26. Chettham, British str., from Rangoon.
 26. Chwanshan, British str., from Saigon.
 26. Faiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 26. Hupeh, British str., from Canton.
 26. Kwangiee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

September— DEPARTURES.

21. Maclellan, U.S. frigate, for Manila.
 22. Choyang, British str., for Shanghai.
 22. Kansu, British str., for Canton.
 22. Kinshiu Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 22. Laos, French str., for Europe.
 22. Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.
 22. Segovia, German str., for Yokohama.
 23. Achilles, British str., for Shanghai.
 23. Airlie, British str., for Shanghai.
 23. Benlarig, British str., for Kobe.
 23. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 23. Canton, British str., for Canton.
 23. Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 23. Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 23. Hongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 23. Kumsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 23. Nanchang, British str., for Canton.
 23. Progress, German str., for Tournon.
 23. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 23. Telemachus, British str., for Swatow.
 23. Tsintau, German str., for Bangkok.
 24. Afridi, British str., for New York.
 24. Airlie, British str., for Shanghai.
 24. Amara, British str., for Hongay.
 24. Auping Maru, Jap. str., for Coast Ports.
 24. Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
 24. Bjorn, Norwegian str., for Saigon.

24. Breconshire, British str., for Bassein.
 24. Diamante, British str., for Manila.
 24. Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 24. Gloucester City, Brit. str., for Souabaya.
 24. Hoihow, French str., for Pakhoi.
 24. Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'chinotzu.
 24. Loo gmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 24. Lucia, Austrian str., for Saigon.
 24. Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 24. Quarta, German str., for Bangkok.
 24. Sabine Rickmers, Br. str., for Balikpapan.
 24. Salahadji, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 24. Shakan Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 24. Sullberg, German str., for Chef o.
 24. Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 24. Taksang, British str., for Canton.
 24. Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.
 25. Adolph Obrig, Amr. bge., for New York.
 25. Bamberg, German str., for Hamburg.
 25. Erithjof, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
 25. Idzumi Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 25. Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
 25. Michael Jebsen, German str., for Pakhoi.
 25. Ness, British str., for Moji.
 25. Picciola, German str., for Samarang.
 25. Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 25. Taishan, British str., for Saigon.
 25. Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 25. Tirol, Austrian str., for Bombay.
 25. Tritos, German str., for Swatow.
 26. America Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.
 26. Den of Ogil, British str., for Yokohama.
 26. Dett, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 26. Hitachi Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 26. Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
 26. Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 26. Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Hupei*, from Shanghai, Mr. Byron.
 Per *Sungkiang*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Rosenthal and two children and Mr. Fochs.
 Per *Laos*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mrs. Liane Eldin, Lieut. Grellet de la Deyte and Mr. Emil Lugat; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Krater and infant, Messrs. Layabre and Y. Yoshioka; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Bumann, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Richter, Mrs. Mary Blum, Mrs. E. Blaush, Mrs. Maria dos Santos and infant, Misses Linblayter, Tennyson and Amelia Paula, Capt. C. Wittmus, Messrs. Kent, C. R. Shaw, L. B. Standley, Joseph Satterlee, T. L. Bell and Wilhelm Konig; for Saigon, from Yokohama, Mr. Dean; from Shanghai, Messrs. Haileau and Saliguerho; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Capt. Houle; for Colombo, from Shanghai, Mr. Kaiser; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Messrs. Muraour, Valentin, Forbjomsen, Crochet, Le Bras, Le Rene, Bescot, Goavec, Genvaux and Howocis; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Serven, Reynaud, Heritier, Millot, Kirsh, D. Mainard, Floch, Etienne Laurent, Le Mel, Castaing, Savelli, Tomei, Brue and Le Monel; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Seymet, Mrs. Guedon, Messrs. Riechers, Riedel, Puech, Roger, Pierre, W. P. Ker, Collinet, Rupert Resengon, Rideau, Escoual, Yves, Sergeant, Blain, Herong, Paul, Vigne, Rebous, Le Marie, Coquenot, Gouinguenet, Berradon, Susini, Baudry Rene, Fontaine, Chastelier, Alis, Hommey de Bastide, Dubreuil and Dupre.
 Per *Kaifong*, from Iloilo, Mr. and Mrs. J. O'Brien, Lieut. E. Saunders, Capt. Groves and Taylor, Mr. M. Pujol; from Cebu, Mr. and Mrs. O. Hamaura and three children, Mrs. M. Fortieu, Dr. Hartsock, Messrs. A. J. Francis, A. Jeanguet, Y. Liama and T. L. Larco.
 Per *Nanchang*, from Chingwangtau, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Robertson and two children and Mr. Lambouth.
 Per *Airlie*, from Australia, Messrs. Minnett, Bevan, McConackie and Chapman.
 Per *Catherine Apcar*, from Calcutta, &c., Messrs. F. J. Shepherd, J. Gubbay and Isaac.
 Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Misses F. Stevens and N. Stevens, Messrs. E. Stevens and Stevens; from Singapore, Messrs. P. J. Hesse and Nagott; from Saigon, Mr. Huygues; for Haiphong, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Roussau, Messrs. Ch. Duvent, P. Rousseau, Chevalie and Van der Heyde; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Manicus, Mrs. Nonaille Degorce and two

children, Mr. and Mrs. Naylor, Messrs. Deviller, Pradet, Jomaron, Braun, Piquet, Vidal, Ponzergues, B. Magnan, Pierrugues and Barthelmy, Pores Faveau, Hercoué, Salvarot, Juladien, Vincent, Gregoire, Durand, Vorharen, Wileme, Goertz and Santaniello; from Port Said, Mrs. Adelphina Yandle and three children; from Saigon, Messrs. Zahar and Caret; for Nagasaki, from Singapore, Mrs. Tanorvie; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Mr. Nagashe; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Messrs. Emile Dourille, Clauquin, Abrial, Chavezieux and Carol; from Batavia, Mr. Mirti; from Singapore, Mr. Matsuzaki.

Per *Taisang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mrs. E. Martinez and child.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mrs. Gomez Acebo and four children, Mr. and Mrs. C. de la Cruz, Messrs. Robert Muir, Elizalde and B. Honig.

Per *Onsang*, from Moji, Mr. Rogge.

Per *Daijin Maru*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. Averil.

Per *Yawata Maru*, from Australia, &c., for Hongkong, Misses Violet Eldene and J. C. Weir, Messrs. W. Schadd, M. Ehrmann, Halden Webb and Sellner; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Meares, Dr. and Mrs. Freer, Misses Wienholt (3), Messrs. M. E. Wienholt, T. Riba, R. Keep and Bayes Davy.

Per *Chingtu*, from Kobe, Mrs. Garriock and Mr. Haghurst.

Per *Hitachi Maru*, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Capt. and Mrs. S. Fawcett, Mr. and Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Barry and two children, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Farrell, Miss C. Girling, Rev. A. S. Hawksworth, Messrs. J. W. Child, J. H. Moore, Goodman, G. King, Coomb, L. Tett and C. Christopherson; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Hanisch, Mrs. and Miss Gray, Messrs. H. Fogg and H. Bichall; for Kobe, Messrs. T. Glover and T. Yonei; for Yokohama, Misses J. Raderema and Squire, Messrs. T. Konde, M. Nambu, I. Ito and A. Blanckensee.

DEPARTED.

Per *Loongsang* for Manila, Mrs. Hampstead, Messrs. D. S. Townsend and C. W. Rosenthoek.

Per *Hakata Maru*, from Hongkong, for London, &c., Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Carden and child, Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Griggs and two children, Mrs. K. Matsuo, Misses S. Muira and Amor, Masters D. Lowe and R. A. Box, Messrs. Villiger, J. E. Carter, G. Arai, H. O. Rura, J. A. Wattie, Maxwell, G. T. Bright and K. Matsuo.

Per *Kinshiu Maru*, for American Ports, Messrs. Riley, G. W. Ansbro, G. D. Willie and J. Wanders.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Akimoto.

Per *Diamante*, for Manila, Mrs. Blume, Mrs. Blanche, Dr. and Mrs. Rosario, Messrs. E. Canvay, H. B. Atwill, W. E. Wood, F. H. Morrell, J. L. de Otero, J. McNally, J. Galen and M. A. Rosenthal.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. C. Christiansen, Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Grant, Dr. W. H. Solf, Lieut. Reiner, Messrs. D. W. Craddock, E. Kadoorie, J. Goodman, G. C. Moxon, A. G. L. Renny, E. Schmidt and J. P. MacIntosh; for Nagasaki, Mr. T. Nagata; for Kobe, Rev. H. R. Talbot, Messrs. J. S. Ezekiel, D. Gray, P. Chapman and T. Williamson; for Yokohama, Capt. R. H. Galt, Messrs. B. W. Nuttall and J. H. Roys; for San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. J. O'Brien, Capt. E. C. Poey, Messrs. A. E. Kramer and F. M. Gray; for Victoria, Capt. and Mrs. M. Spencer; for Boston, Mr. J. Macdonald; for Chicago, Mrs. A. Kosenthal and child; for London, Lieut. G. W. Wellburn and Mr. H. F. Hesse; for Liverpool, Mr. J. McConachie; from Shanghai, for Yokohama, Mrs. and Miss Bailey; from Yokohama, for London, Mr. and Mrs. F. Collier and child, Miss Ridgely and Capt. H. Hewetson.

Per *America Maru*, for Shanghai, Mrs. and Miss Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Hanish and infant, Dr. Hartsock and Mr. Max Michael; for Nagasaki, Mrs. Thomas and Mr. A. J. Bowie; for Yokohama, Messrs. T. Ozone and Ramo Firth; for San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Stellner, Messrs. Ramon Reyer Hala, H. L. A. Jasbue and J. C. Roberts; for Portland, Misses Colman and Nellie Sanderson.

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